

CHAPTER 5

POPULATION

Population information in this chapter is based on the 2010 Census and the *2007–2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate* (ACS). The U.S. Census is taken only once every ten years, so the ACS, which is also administered by the Census Bureau, provides updates in the years between censuses. The updates are provided once every three years to small communities, and annually to larger cities. Though more current, the ACS is based on a much smaller sample size, so if at any point there is a discrepancy between the two sources, information from the Census is regarded as the official data.

Population information is available in more detail from the U.S. Census Bureau FactFinder website at <http://factfinder2.census.gov>, where typing in the name of a city or county brings up the available data sets for that place. More detailed Kansas information, including demographic data from Census 1990 and Census 2000, is available from the *University of Kansas Institute for Policy & Social Research*, at www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata.

Understanding the characteristics of the people now living in McPherson helps in estimating the potential future population of the Planning Area by the end of the ten year Planning Period. A reasonably accurate determination of future population is an essential foundation for predicting McPherson's planning needs over the next decade, such as water requirements or sewage treatment capacities.

Understanding the physical, social, and economic characteristics of the people in the McPherson Planning Area will help community leaders develop policies to effectively meet residents' needs.

Historical Population Trends

After the American population boom in the post-World War II era, rates of growth became more stable during the fifty years from 1960 to 2010. As detailed in the following table, the population of the United States has been growing by an average of about 11.5% per decade for the last fifty years, while Kansas has been growing by about 5.6%, and McPherson by about 5.8%.

According to the U.S. Census, the population of McPherson increased fairly steadily over the decades between 1950 and 2000, then suddenly decreased in the decade between 2000 and 2010. Overall during the past 50 years, McPherson has been growing at a rate comparable with the state of Kansas, but more slowly than the national average.

(Census)	US		Kansas		McPherson	
	Population	% Change	Population	% Change	Population	% Change
1950	151,325,798		1,905,299		8,689	
1960	179,323,175	18.5%	2,178,611	14.3%	9,996	15.0%
1970	203,211,926	13.3%	2,246,578	3.1%	10,851	8.6%
1980	226,545,805	11.5%	2,363,679	5.2%	11,753	8.3%
1990	248,709,873	9.8%	2,477,574	4.8%	12,422	5.7%
2000	281,421,906	13.2%	2,688,418	8.5%	13,770	10.9%
2010	308,745,538	9.7%	2,853,118	6.1%	13,155	-4.5%
Average (1970—2010)		11.5%	—	5.6%	—	5.8%

Further estimates may be taken from the *American Community Survey* as found on the *American Factfinder* <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

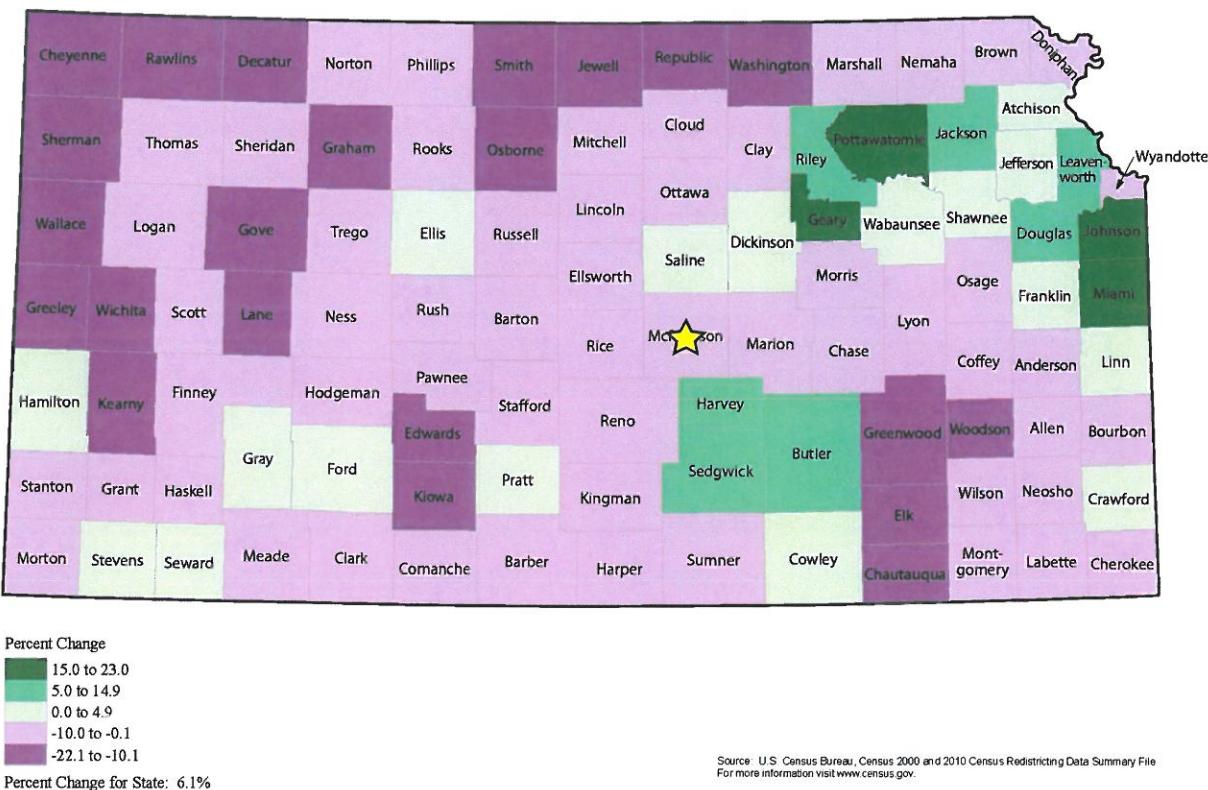
Release Dates: For Cities and Towns – (incorporated Places and Minor Civil Divisions), May, 2015.

Location	April 1, 2010		Population Estimate (as of July 1)			
	Census	Estimates Base	2010	2011	2012	2013
City of McPherson	13,155	13,157	13,137	13,160	13,209	13,344

National & State Population Trends

Recent national population trends show some states and counties losing population, as people move from rural areas to cities, and from the northeast and midwest to the south and west. Population changes in Kansas reflect aspects of both of these national trends. This map shows the percentage of population change between 2000 and 2010, for the state of Kansas. Green shades indicate growth; purple shades indicate population loss.

KANSAS - 2010 Census Results
Percent Change in Population by County: 2000 to 2010



In Kansas, most population growth in the last decade has taken place in the northeast part of the state (around Kansas City, Topeka, and the university towns of Lawrence and Manhattan), and around Wichita. McPherson County is not close enough to either metropolitan area to benefit from these trends. After a 7.0% increase in population between 1990 and 2010, McPherson County then lost 1.3% of its population in the decade between 2000 and 2010.

Characteristics of McPherson's Population

In this section, information from the 2010 Census, and earlier Censuses, will be used to discuss McPherson's population growth, age distribution, and household and family characteristics. Information from the *2007–2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate* will be used to discuss citizenship, veterans status, ancestry, race, marital status, and educational attainment.

Percentage Changes—in Population, Age, & Gender Proportions

(Census)	McPherson		
	2000	2010	Change
Total Population	13,770	13,155	-4.5%
Median Age (in years)	36.3	38.5	2.2
% Male	48.5%	49.4%	0.9%
% Female	51.5%	50.6%	-0.9%

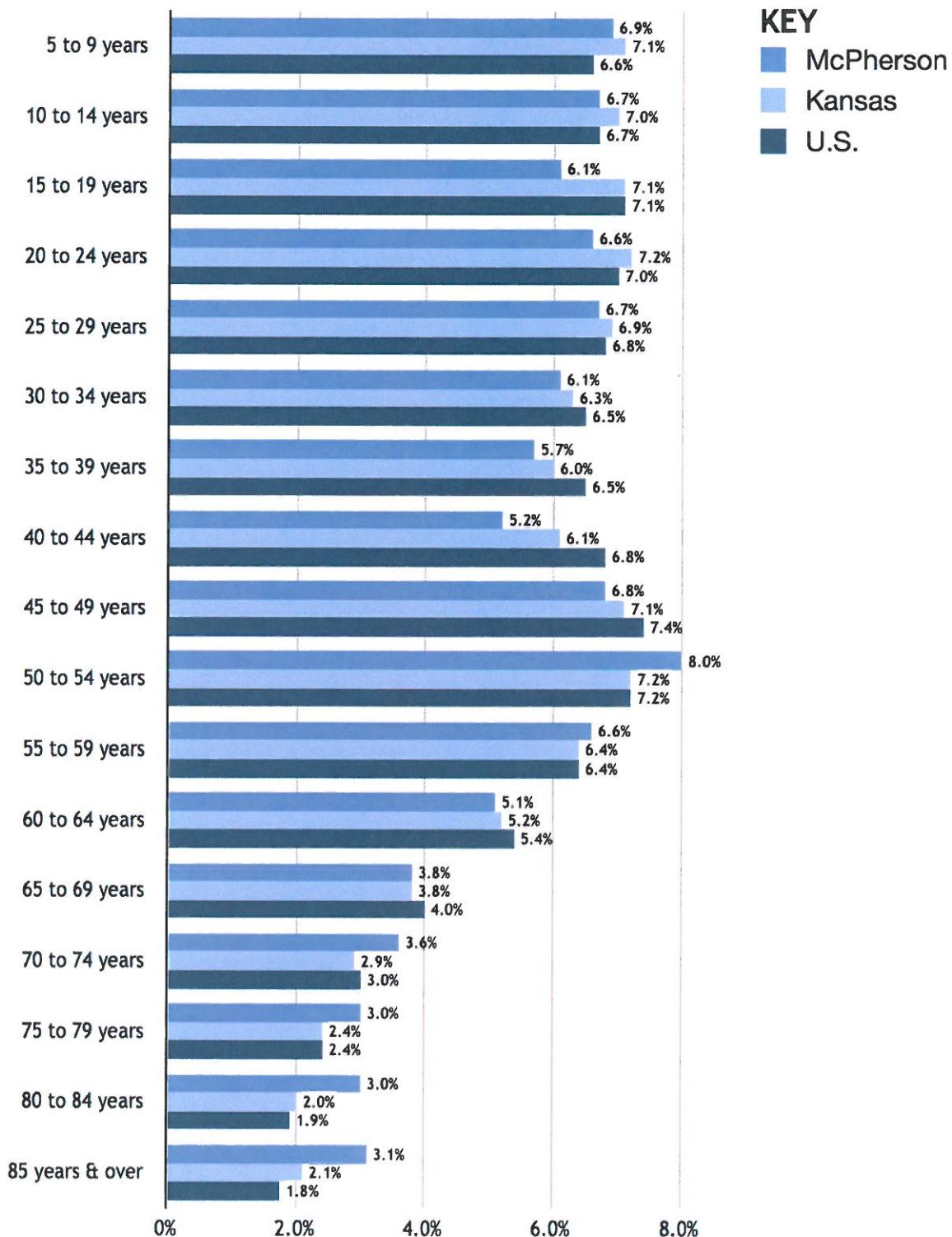
Population Change Between 2000 and 2010, McPherson's total population decreased by 4.5%. Between 2000 and 2010, population in Kansas increased by 6.1%, and nationally the population increased by 9.7%.

Age McPherson's median age has increased, reinforcing the City's tendency toward an older population than what is typical nationally. From 2000 to 2010, the U.S. median age went from 35.3 to 37.2, an increase of 1.9 years. This increase reflects a combination of factors, including the population bulge of the baby boomer generations moving into their older years, improving mortality rates, and a stable birth rate. In the same time frame, McPherson's median age increased by 2.2 years.

Sex Ratio The gender balance in a population is measured as the number of males per 100 females, or the sex ratio. Though the sex ratio at birth is about 105, mortality at every age is generally higher for males, so the sex ratio naturally declines with age. In the United States, between 2000 and 2010, the sex ratio increased from 96.3 to 96.7 (an increase of 0.4), as a result of more men living longer.

In McPherson, between 2000 and 2010, the number of men increased by 0.9%. In the 2000 Census, McPherson's population was 51.5% female and 48.5% male, with 6,682 males and 7,088 females, for a sex ratio of 94.3—two points lower than the national average for the percentage of males. In 2010, McPherson's population was 50.6% female and 49.4% male, with 6,493 males and 6,662 females, for a sex ratio of 97.5—which is 0.8 points higher than the national average for the percentage of males.

Age Distribution This chart shows the percentage of each age category for McPherson residents, compared to figures for Kansas and the United States. Compared to the state or the nation, McPherson's population has lower percentages of 15-to-24 year-olds, a higher percentage of 50-to-54 year-olds, and much higher percentages of people over 70 years of age.



Families & Households

The 2010 Census defined "**family households**" as consisting of a householder and one or more other people related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption, except for same-sex married couples. "**Non-family households**" consist of people living alone, and households (including married same-sex couples) which do not have any members related to the householder.

Households & Families in McPherson (2010 Census)		
Family Households	3,534	64.0%
Husband & Wife without own child(ren) under 18 years	1,791	32.4%
Husband & Wife with own child(ren) under 18 years	1,106	20.0%
Male householder with own child(ren) under 18 years	126	2.3%
Female householder with own child(ren) under 18 years	293	5.3%
Male householder with other relatives	68	1.2%
Female householder with other relatives	150	2.7%
Non-Family Households	1,987	36.0%
Male living alone (under 65 years)	586	10.6%
Male living alone (65 years and over)	168	3.0%
Female living alone (under 65 years)	421	7.6%
Female living alone (65 years and over)	525	9.5%
Other non-family households	287	5.2%
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	5,521	100.0%

- **Children/Seniors** Out of 5521 households in McPherson, 1647 (29.8%) had children under 18 years of age in the household, and 1485 (26.9%) had individuals 65 years of age or older in the household; 2389 households (43.3%) had neither children or seniors.
- **Household & Family Size** As counted by the 2010 Census, the average household in McPherson had 2.35 people, and the average family had 2.94 people. Between 2000 and 2010, the average household size decreased from 2.43 to 2.35 persons per household. Between 2000 and 2010, the average family size decreased marginally from 2.97 to 2.94 persons per household.
- **Between 2000 and 2010**, the number of family households in McPherson changed from 3650 to 3534, a decrease of 3.2%. The number of non-family households changed from 1728 to 1987, an increase of 15.0%. The total number of households changed from 5378 to 5521, an increase of 2.7%.

Population Characteristics from the American Community Survey

Information in this section originates in the *2007–2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*, since some social information was not collected in the 2010 Census. There are

discrepancies between the two data sets; for instance, the number of households utilized by *the Survey* (5,289) is different than the official 2010 Census figure for number of households (5,378), and the total population is 13,214 in *the Survey* and 13,770 in the Census. To maintain consistency within the following data, *Community Survey* numbers are used throughout this section.

- **Citizenship** Out of the City's 13,214 residents, 12,984 were born in the United States, and 36 were born either in U.S. territory or to American parents abroad. Among McPherson's 230 foreign-born residents, 53 are naturalized U.S. citizens, and 177 are not U.S. citizens.
- **Veterans** Of the civilian population 18 years old or older (9,888 people in McPherson), 874 residents or 8.8% were military veterans.
- **Ancestry** The percentage of McPherson residents indicating various ancestries included German (40.2%), Irish (11.7%), American (9.2%), English (9.2%), Swedish (6.5%), Dutch (3.5%), Scottish (2.9%), French (except Basque) (2.5%), Scotch-Irish (1.9%), Swiss (1.7%), Russian (1.5%), Italian (1.3%), Norwegian (1.3%), Czech (1.2%), Polish (1.1%), Welsh (1.0%), Danish (0.6%), French Canadian (0.2%), Ukrainian (0.2%), Arab (0.2%), and Greek (0.1%). 699 residents, or 5.3% of the City's population, is Hispanic.
- **Race:** Racially, McPherson is quite homogenous: 94.6% White, 2.2% Multi-racial, 1.4% Some other race, 1.3% Black or African-American, 0.5% American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.3% Asian, and 0.2% Pacific Islander.

Marital Status

McPherson Marital Status	Males (15 and over)		Females (15 and over)		All (15 and over)	
Never Married	1,440	28.5%	984	18.7%	2,424	23.5%
Married (not separated)	3,020	59.8%	3,043	58.0%	6,063	58.9%
Separated	32	0.6%	37	0.7%	69	0.7%
Widowed	95	1.9%	645	12.3%	740	7.2%
Divorced	464	9.2%	541	10.3%	1,005	9.8%
Total	5,051	100.0%	5,250	100.0%	10,301	100.0%

Of people in McPherson 15 or older, 58.9% were married, 17.0% were widowed or divorced, and 23.5% had never married. In the same time frame, the percentage of people 15 and older

in Kansas who had never married was 27.5%, and in the U.S. it was 31.4%. The proportion of Americans who have never married has been increasing across all age categories in recent decades.

McPherson Educational Attainment

McPherson Educational Attainment (25 years and over)		
Less than 9th grade	228	2.6%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	535	6.2%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,695	31.1%
Some college, no degree	2,199	25.4%
Associate's degree	519	6.0%
Bachelor's degree	1,738	20.1%
Graduate or professional degree	750	8.7%
Total	8,664	100.0%

Of people in McPherson 25 years old or older, 91.2% had a high school degree or higher, and 28.8% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

McPherson City Decennial Population Change

History shows that McPherson's population growth increased at a fairly steady rate each decade, up until the first decade of the 21st Century, when it decreased. The table below shows the average annual change in the City's population for each decade in the last 60 years.

(Census)	McPherson		Average annual population change
	Population	% Change	
1950	8,689		
1960	9,996	15.0%	131
1970	10,851	8.6%	86
1980	11,753	8.3%	90
1990	12,422	5.7%	67
2000	13,770	10.9%	135
2010	13,155	-4.5%	-62

McPherson County Population Comparison

A comparison of the City of McPherson with the other cities in McPherson County also gives insight into the demographics of the area. This helps to discover if McPherson is experiencing a population change in conformance with or separate from the general area.

McPherson County Population Change 2000-2010						
City	2000		2010		Change	
	Population	% of County	Population	% of County	Population	% of County
McPherson	13,770	46.6%	13,155	45.1%	-615	-4.5%
Lindsborg	3,321	11.2%	3,458	11.9%	137	4.1%
Moundridge	1,593	5.4%	1,737	6.0%	144	9.0%
Inman	1,142	3.9%	1,377	4.7%	235	20.6%
Galva	701	2.4%	870	3.0%	169	24.1%
Canion	829	2.8%	748	2.6%	-81	-9.8%
Marquette	542	1.8%	641	2.2%	99	18.3%
Windom	137	0.5%	130	0.4%	-7	-5.1%
Total Cities	22,035	74.6%	22,116	75.8%	81	0.4%
Total Cities except McPherson	8,265	28.0%	8,961	30.7%	696	8.4%
Unincorporated Area	7,519	25.4%	7,064	24.2%	-455	-6.1%
McPherson County	29,554	100.0%	29,180	100.0%	-374	-1.3%

*Number of people who moved out of McPherson, Canton, Windom, and the unincorporated area, between 2000 and 2010: $615+81+7+455 = 1,158$.

*Number of people who moved out of McPherson County: **374**

*Number of people who moved out of McPherson, Canton, Windom, and the unincorporated area, but stayed in McPherson County: $1,158-374 = 784$

Further estimates may be taken from the *American Community Survey* as found on the *American Factfinder* <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division
 Release Dates: For Counties– , March, 2015.

Location	April 1, 2010		Population Estimate (as of July 1)			
	Census	Estimates Base	2010	2011	2012	2013
McPherson County	29,180	29,180	29,141	29,213	29,341	29,606

Planning Area Population

The U.S. Census does not provide population data sorted by "Planning Area", so other means will be used to arrive at a reasonable estimate of the Planning Area population.

Household Size According to the 2010 Census, the average household size in McPherson was 2.35 people per household.

Family Size According to the 2010 Census, the average family size in McPherson was 2.94 people per family.

Other Factors to Consider

McPherson and the surrounding communities have recently been impacted by a large influx of itinerant workers. These individuals and families have come to complete large projects being accomplished by local McPherson industry. While these projects are not permanent, they are expected to be ongoing for several years and will impact the provision of local services and, in particular, the local housing market. Additionally, these projects will result in additional local job opportunities which will, in turn, provide pressure for additional permanent population growth.

As will be explained in a later chapter on "housing," the number of available living units is on a steady increase but is lagging behind the number of units needed. Once these are provided, this should result in a larger number of local employees and a reduction in the number of employees who commute from other places. Initially, however, the influx of itinerant workers and the unavailability of current housing units is restraining the growth that local industry is striving to create.

Population Projection for Planning Period:

As a consequence of these factors, a strict reliance on a mathematical computation for future population will, most likely, result in underestimating the population that will need to be accommodated within the Planning Period. However, the simplest method to project through 2023 would be to use the Average percent change as shown in the Census chart table on page 5-2. Using this 5.8% average rate of change as calculated between the years 1970 through 2010, the projected target population would give a population of **13,918** for the year 2020 and **14,160** for the year 2023. Knowing that it is better to plan for slightly more population than is expected, a +3% factor is applied to these numbers to come up with the following target populations:

2020: 14,336

2023: 14,588