



Cowley County, KS

Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas



Contents

Report Parameters	1
Economy Overview	2
Unemployment by Demographics	4
Historic & Projected Trends	8
Population Characteristics	12
Inbound and Outbound Migration	14
Industry Characteristics	16
Business Characteristics	21
Workforce Characteristics	23
Educational Pipeline	29
In-Demand Skills	30

Report Parameters

1 County

20035 Cowley County, KS

Class of Worker

QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed

The information in this report pertains to the chosen geographical area.

Economy Overview

34,082

Population (2025)

Population **decreased by 453** over the last 5 years and is projected to **decrease by 500** over the next 5 years.

14,768

Total Regional Employment

Jobs **decreased by 476** over the last 5 years and are projected to **decrease by 202** over the next 5 years.

\$58.3K

Median Household Income (2023)

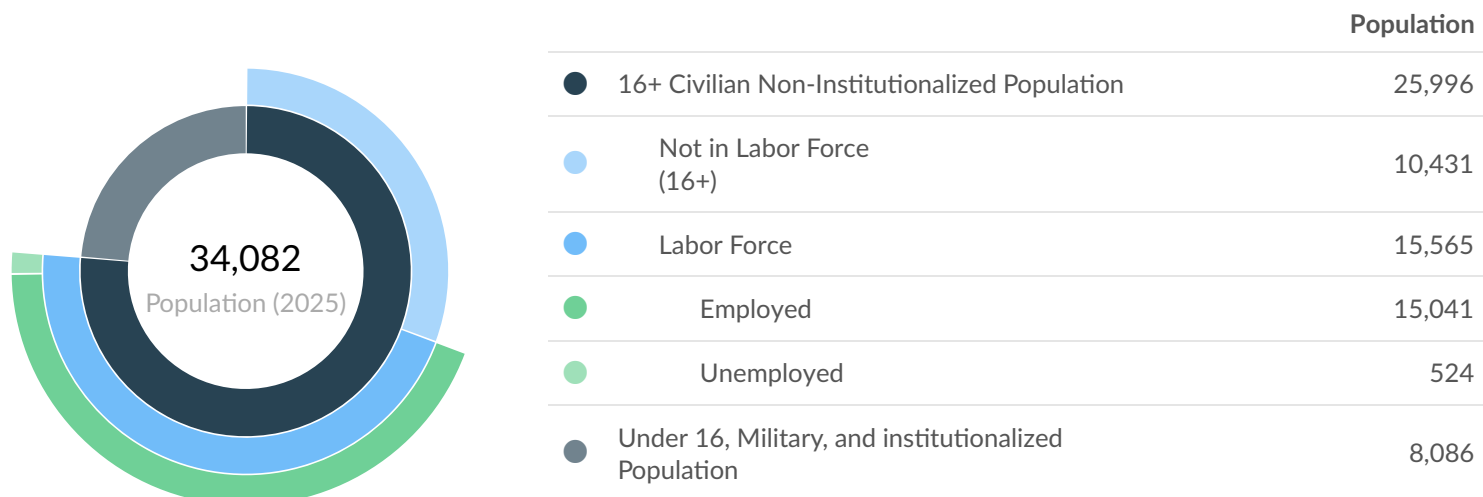
Median household income is **\$20.3K below** the national median household income of \$78.5K.

Takeaways

- As of 2025 the region's population **declined by 1.3%** since 2020, falling by 453. Population is expected to **decrease by 1.5%** between 2025 and 2030, losing 500.
- From 2020 to 2025, jobs **declined by 3.1%** in Cowley County, KS from 15,244 to **14,768**. This change **fell short of the national growth rate of 10.6% by 13.7%**. As the number of jobs declined, the **labor force participation rate decreased from 61.2% to 59.9% between 2020 and 2025**.
- Concerning educational attainment, **16.5% of Cowley County, KS residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (5.3% below the national average), and **12.9% hold an Associate's Degree** (3.9% above the national average).
- The top three industries in 2025 are Education and Hospitals (Local Government), Animal Slaughtering and Processing, and Restaurants and Other Eating Places.

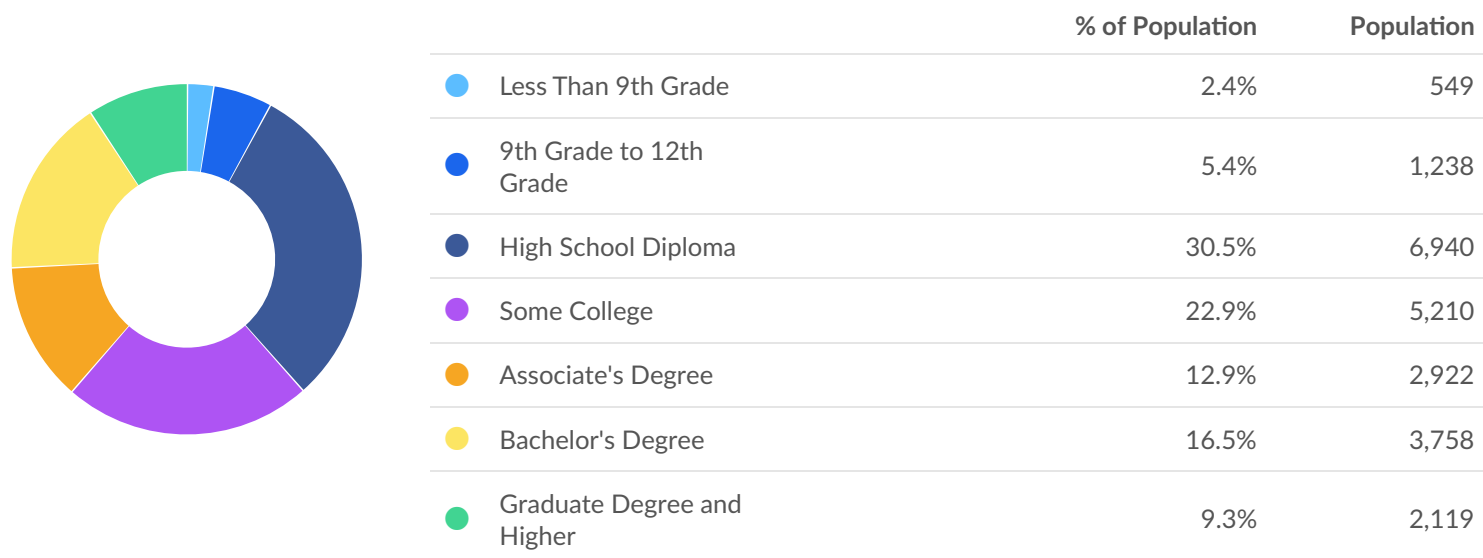
	Population (2025)	Labor Force (Nov 2025)	Jobs (2025)	Cost of Living	GRP	Imports	Exports
Region	34,082	15,565	14,768	92.0	\$1.75B	\$2.99B	\$2.89B
State	2,981,090	1,569,067	1,634,036	98.3	\$232.93B	\$215.43B	\$254.35B

Nov 2025 Labor Force Breakdown



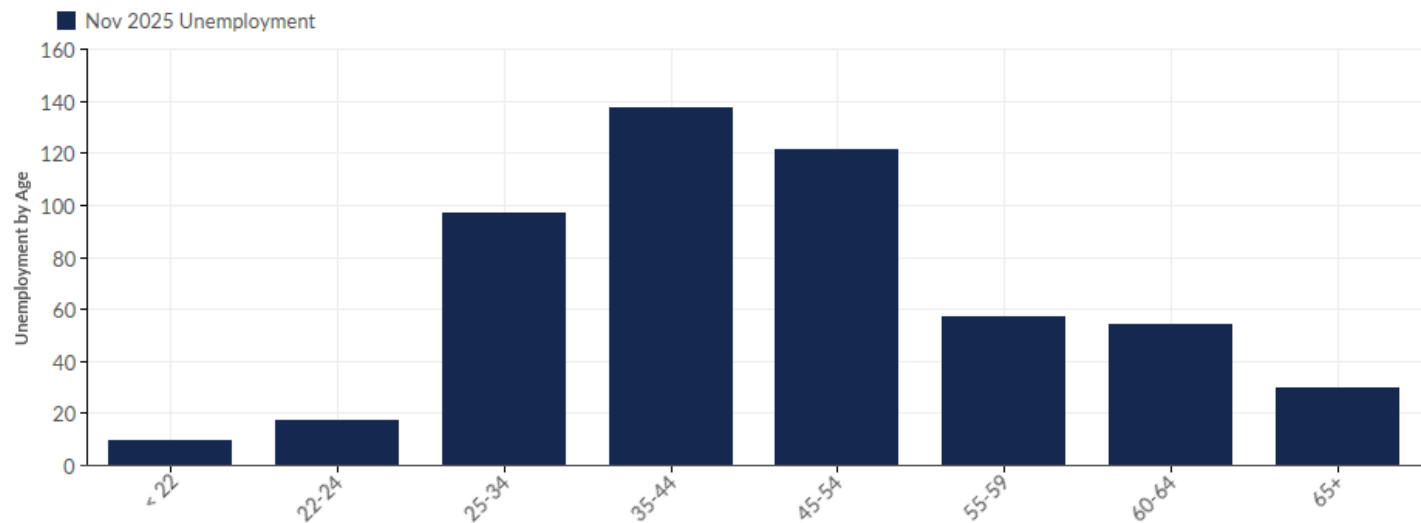
Educational Attainment

Concerning educational attainment, **16.5% of Cowley County, KS residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (5.3% below the national average), and **12.9% hold an Associate's Degree** (3.9% above the national average).



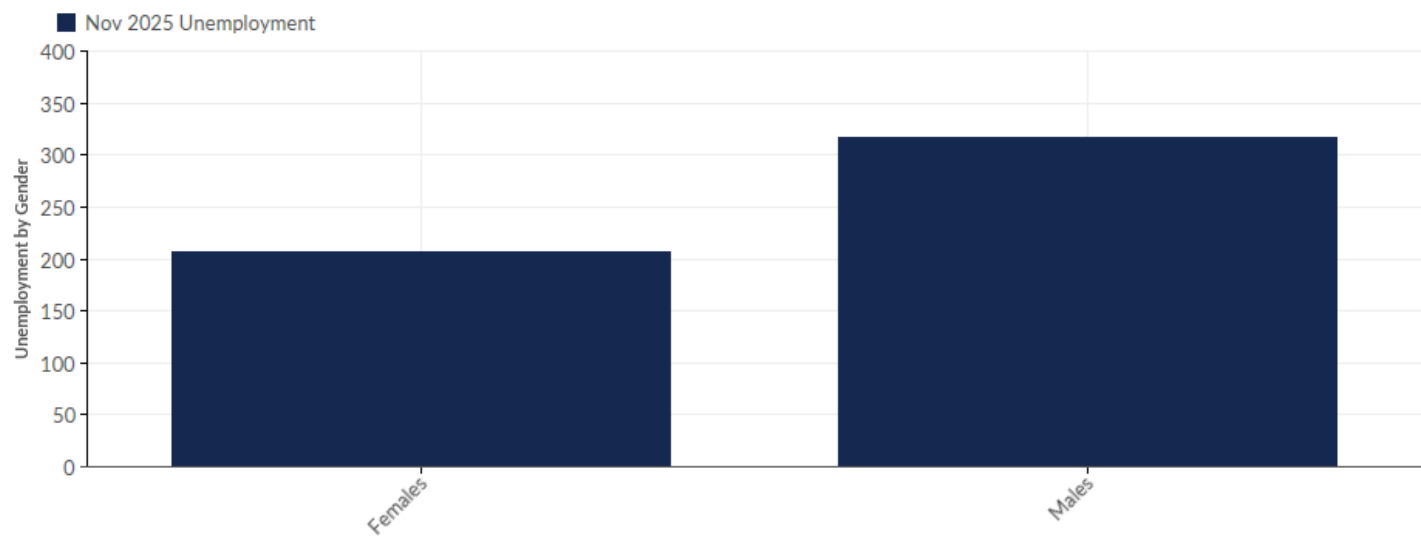
Unemployment by Demographics

Unemployment by Age



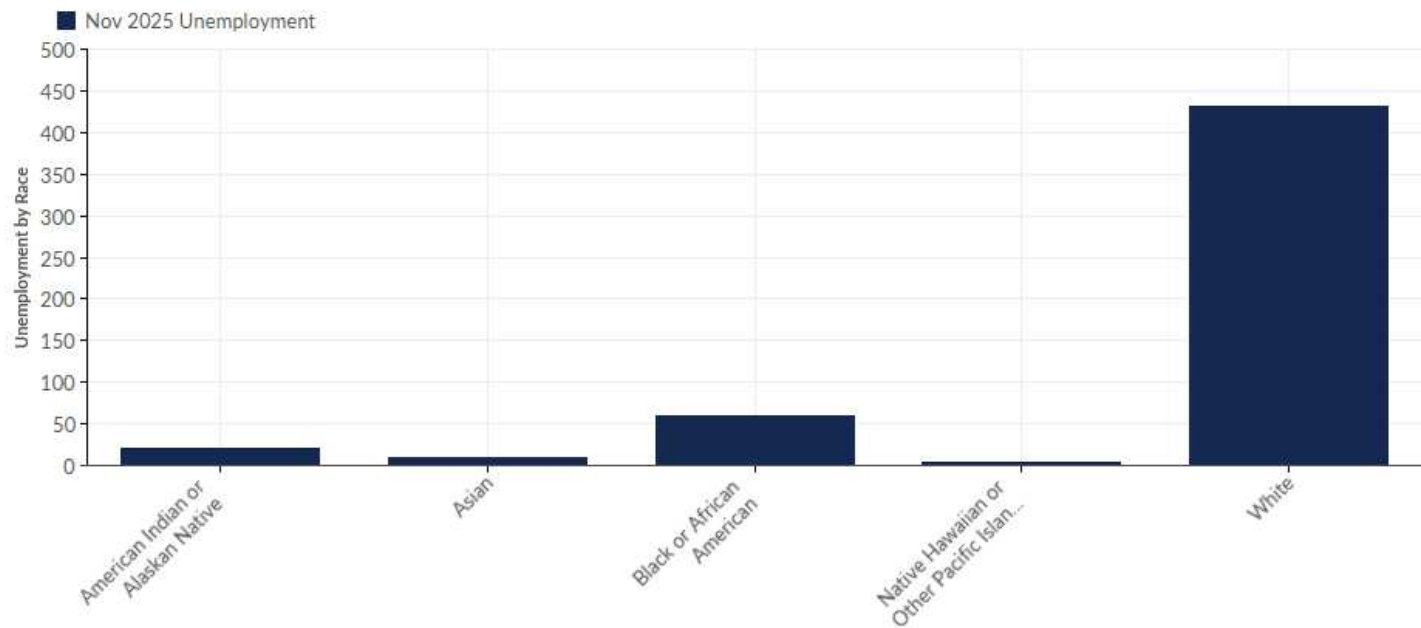
Age	Unemployment (Nov 2025)	% of Unemployed
< 22	10	1.91%
22-24	17	3.24%
25-34	97	18.51%
35-44	137	26.15%
45-54	122	23.28%
55-59	57	10.88%
60-64	54	10.31%
65+	30	5.73%
Total	524	100.00%

Unemployment by Gender



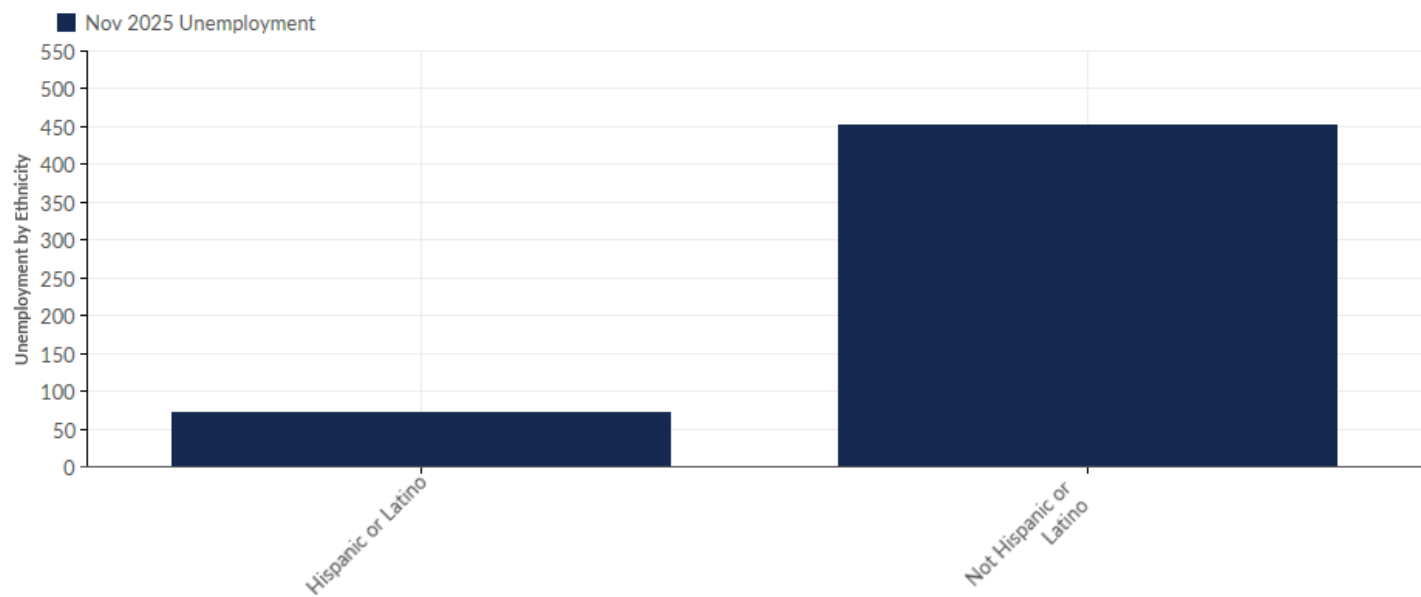
Gender	Unemployment (Nov 2025)	% of Unemployed
Females	207	39.50%
Males	317	60.50%
Total	524	100.00%

Unemployment by Race



Race	Unemployment (Nov 2025)	% of Unemployed
American Indian or Alaskan Native	20	3.82%
Asian	9	1.72%
Black or African American	59	11.26%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5	0.95%
White	431	82.25%
Total	524	100.00%

Unemployment by Ethnicity

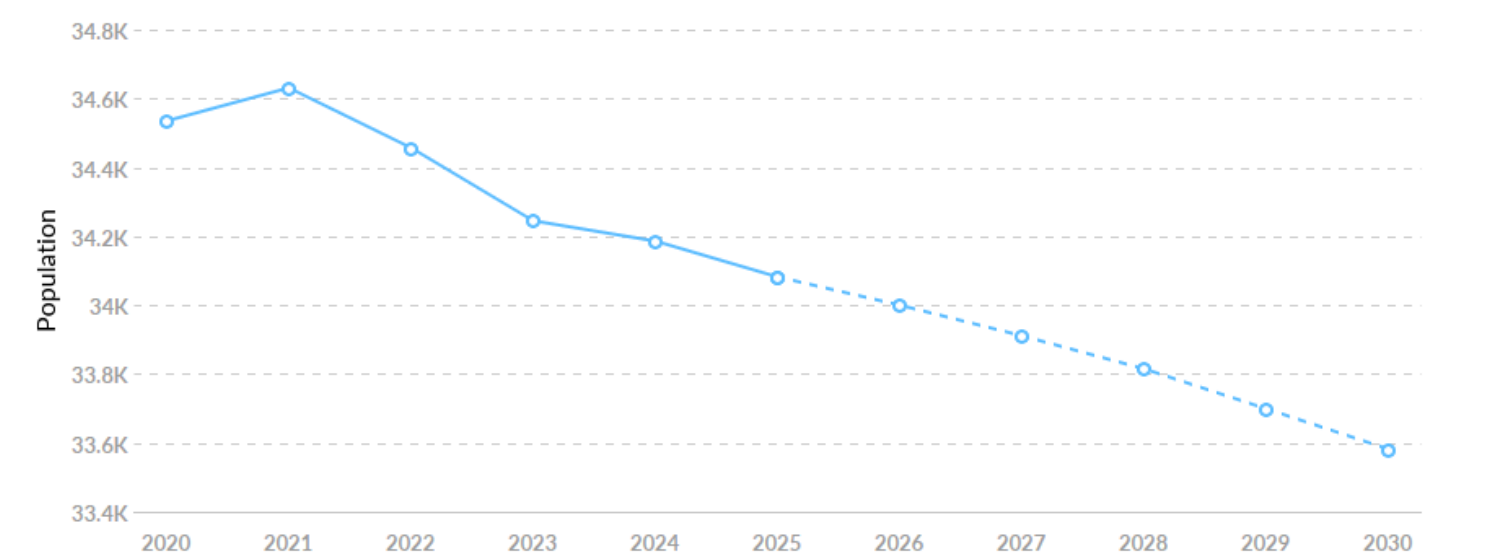


Ethnicity	Unemployment (Nov 2025)	% of Unemployed
Hispanic or Latino	71	13.55%
Not Hispanic or Latino	453	86.45%
Total	524	100.00%

Historic & Projected Trends

Population Trends

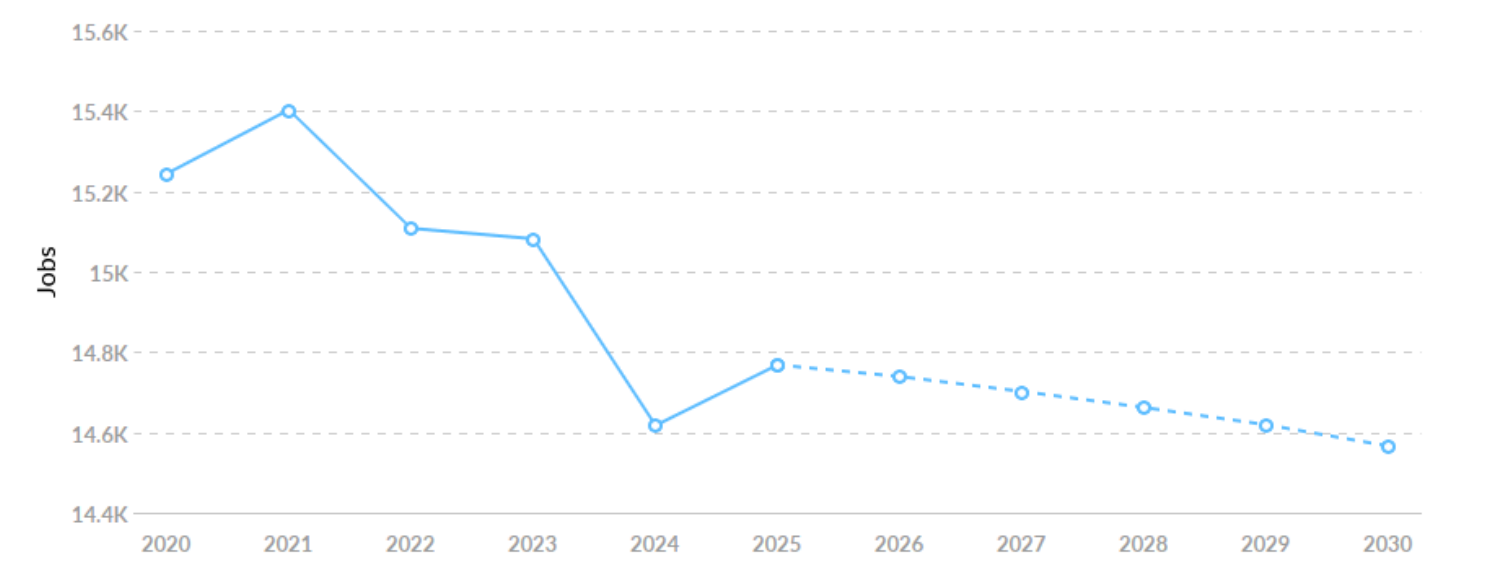
As of 2025 the region's population **declined by 1.3%** since 2020, falling by 453. Population is expected to **decrease by 1.5%** between 2025 and 2030, losing 500.



Timeframe	Population
2020	34,535
2021	34,631
2022	34,457
2023	34,245
2024	34,186
2025	34,082
2026	34,000
2027	33,911
2028	33,815
2029	33,699
2030	33,582

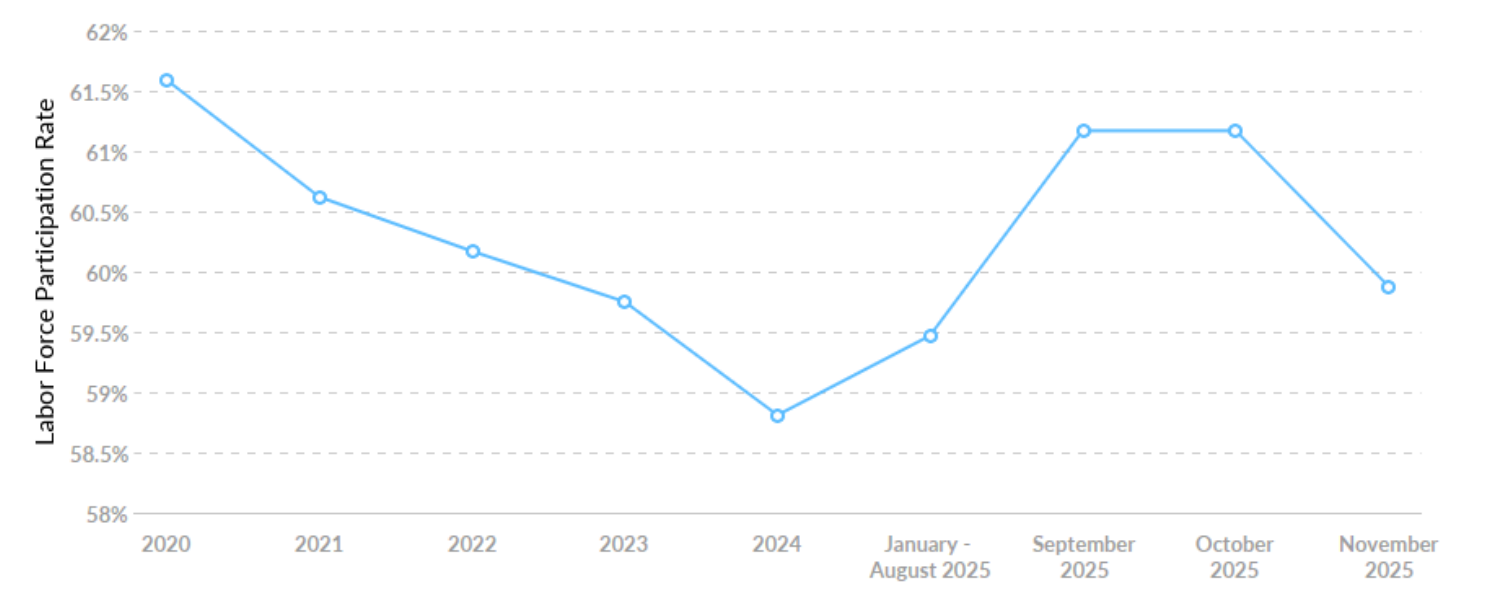
Job Trends

From 2020 to 2025, jobs **declined by 3.1%** in Cowley County, KS from 15,244 to **14,768**. This change **fell short of the national growth rate of 10.6% by 13.7%**.



Timeframe	Jobs
2020	15,244
2021	15,403
2022	15,108
2023	15,082
2024	14,617
2025	14,768
2026	14,739
2027	14,702
2028	14,662
2029	14,619
2030	14,566

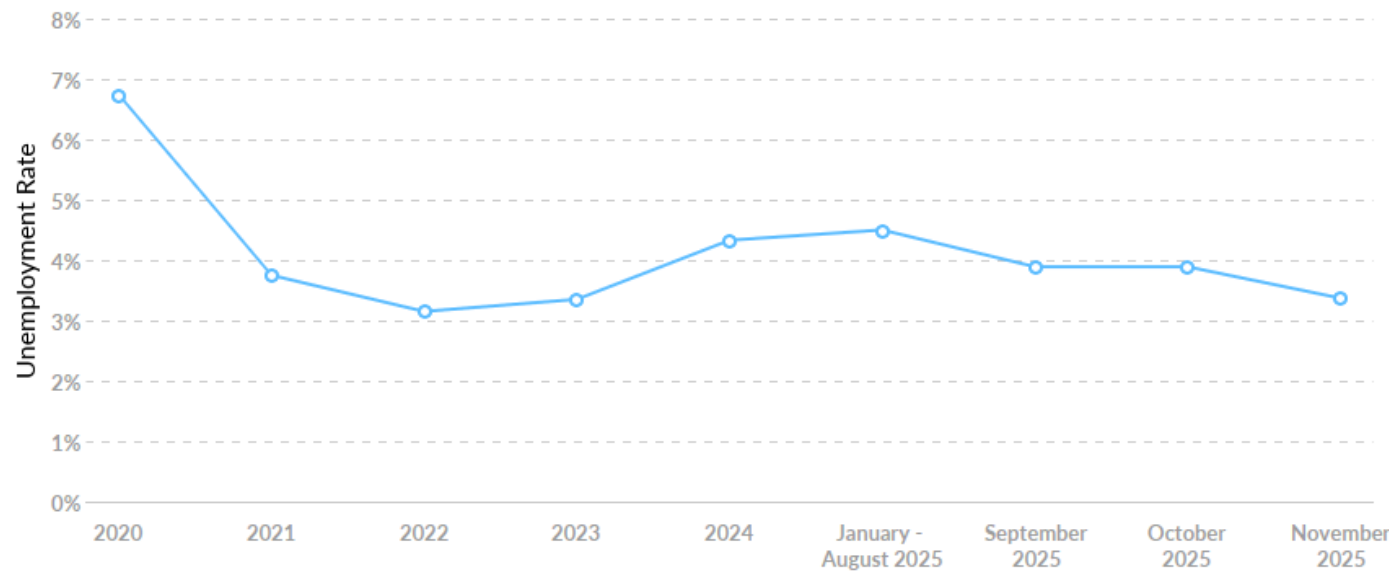
Labor Force Participation Rate Trends



Timeframe	Labor Force Participation Rate
2020	61.59%
2021	60.62%
2022	60.17%
2023	59.75%
2024	58.81%
January - August 2025	59.47%
September 2025	61.17%
October 2025	61.17%
November 2025	59.88%

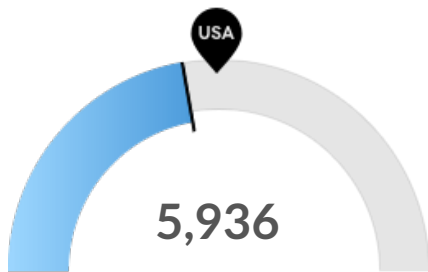
Unemployment Rate Trends

Cowley County, KS had a November 2025 unemployment rate of 3.37%, **decreasing from 6.74%** 5 years before.



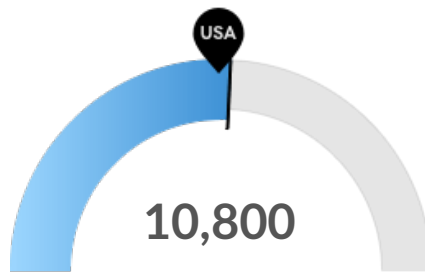
Timeframe	Unemployment Rate
2020	6.74%
2021	3.75%
2022	3.15%
2023	3.35%
2024	4.33%
January - August 2025	4.50%
September 2025	3.89%
October 2025	3.89%
November 2025	3.37%

Population Characteristics



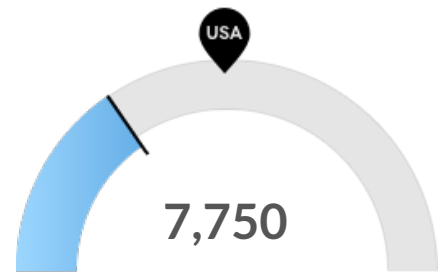
Millennials

Cowley County, KS has 5,936 millennials (ages 25-39). The national average for an area this size is 6,998.



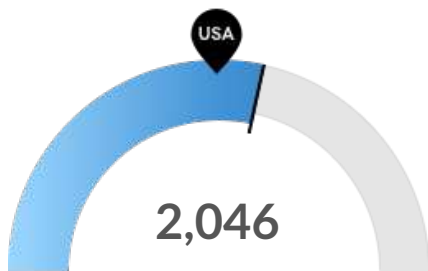
Retiring Soon

Retirement risk is about average in Cowley County, KS. The national average for an area this size is 10,337 people 55 or older, while there are 10,800 here.



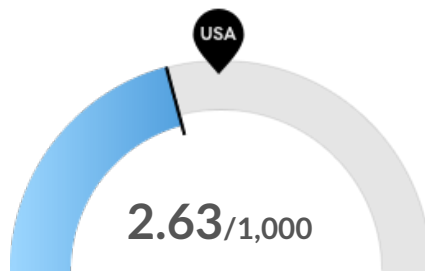
Racial Diversity

Racial diversity is low in Cowley County, KS. The national average for an area this size is 14,542 racially diverse people, while there are 7,750 here.



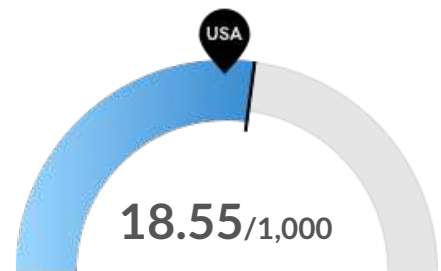
Veterans

Cowley County, KS has 2,046 veterans. The national average for an area this size is 1,685.



Violent Crime

Cowley County, KS has 2.63 violent crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 3.38 per 1,000 people.

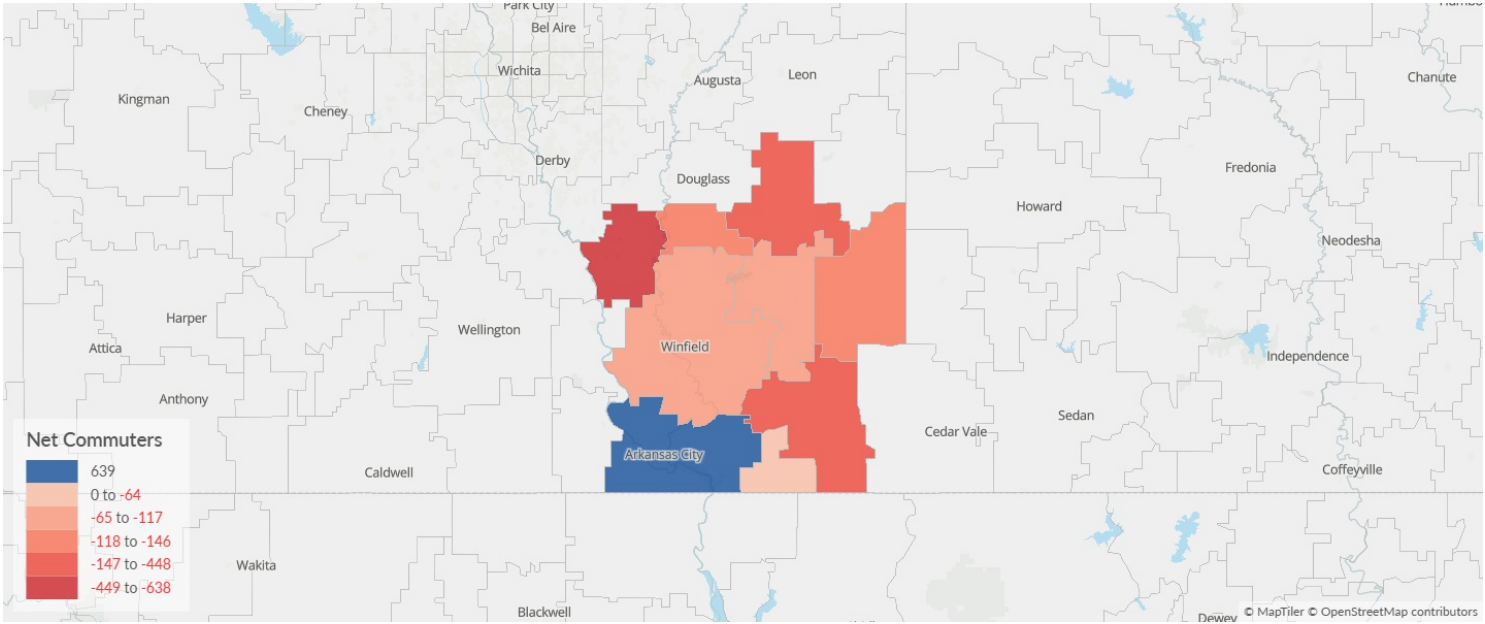


Property Crime

Cowley County, KS has 18.55 property crimes per 1,000 people. The national rate is 16.44 per 1,000 people.

Place of Work vs Place of Residence

Understanding where talent in Cowley County, KS currently works compared to where talent lives can help you optimize site decisions.



Where Talent Works

ZIP	Name	2025 Employment
67005	Arkansas City, KS (in Co...	7,166
67156	Winfield, KS (in Cowley...	6,320
67019	Burden, KS (in Cowley c...	527
67146	Udall, KS (in Cowley cou...	434
67038	Dexter, KS (in Cowley c...	155

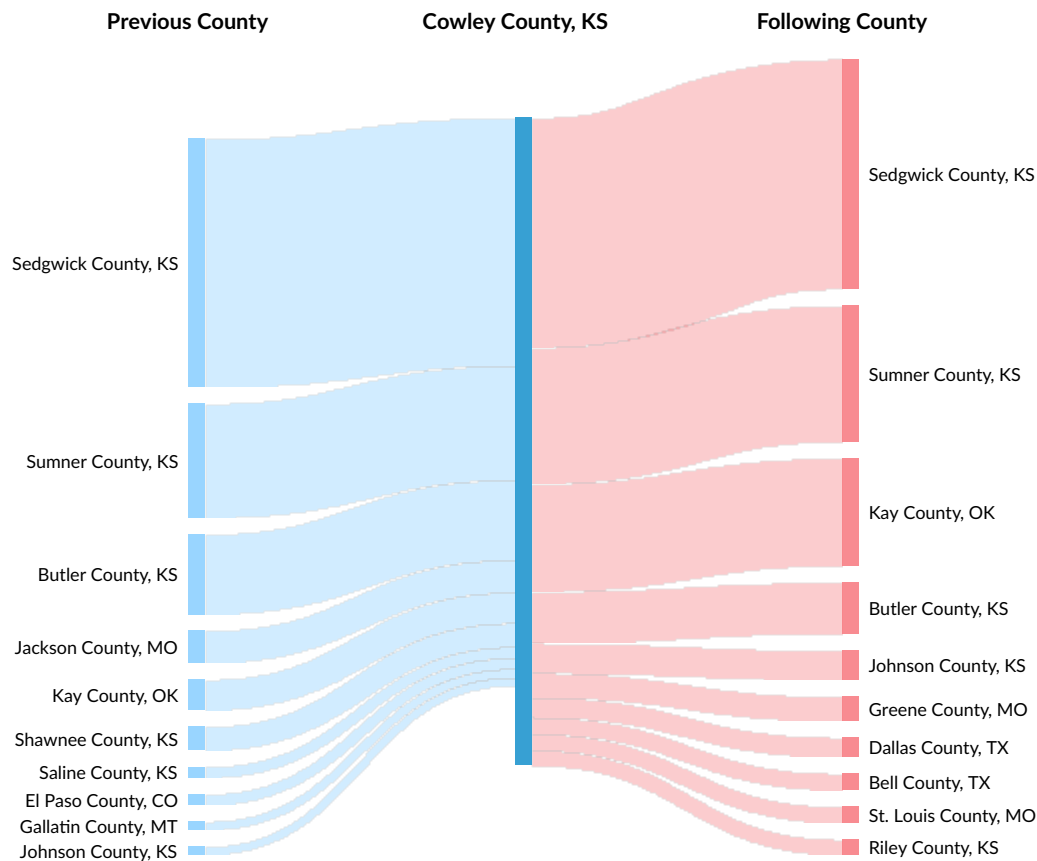
Where Talent Lives

ZIP	Name	2025 Workers
67005	Arkansas City, KS (in Co...	6,528
67156	Winfield, KS (in Cowley...	6,384
67146	Udall, KS (in Cowley cou...	884
67019	Burden, KS (in Cowley c...	609
67038	Dexter, KS (in Cowley c...	301

Inbound and Outbound Migration

The table below analyzes past and current residents of Cowley County, KS. The left column shows residents of other counties migrating to Cowley County, KS. The right column shows residents migrating from Cowley County, KS to other counties.

As of 2022, 258 people have migrated from Sedgwick County, KS to Cowley County, KS. In the same year, 239 people left Cowley County, KS migrating to Sedgwick County, KS. The total Net Migration for Cowley County, KS in 2022 was -36.

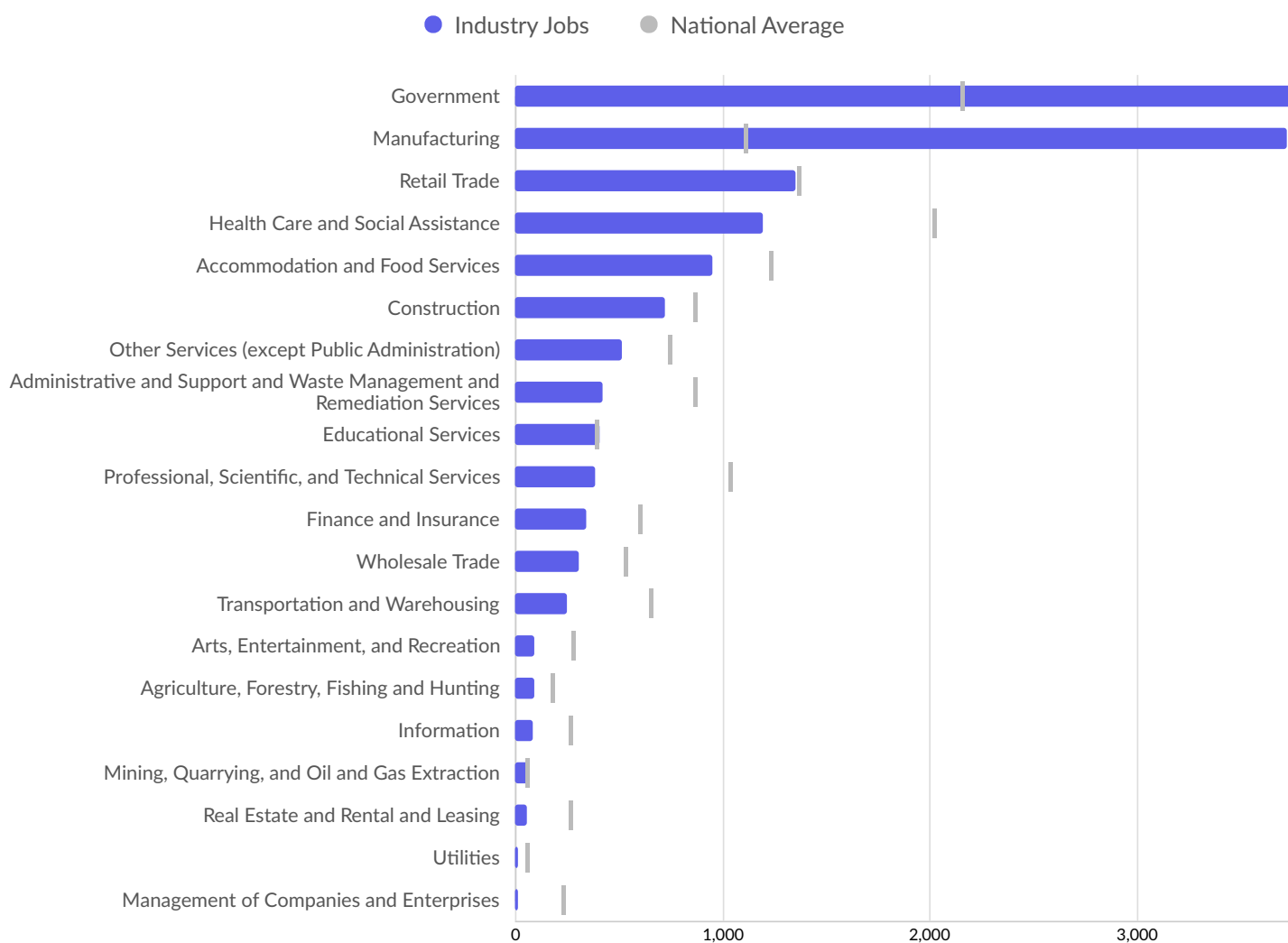


Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Sedgwick County, KS	258
Sumner County, KS	119
Butler County, KS	83
Jackson County, MO	34
Kay County, OK	32
Shawnee County, KS	25

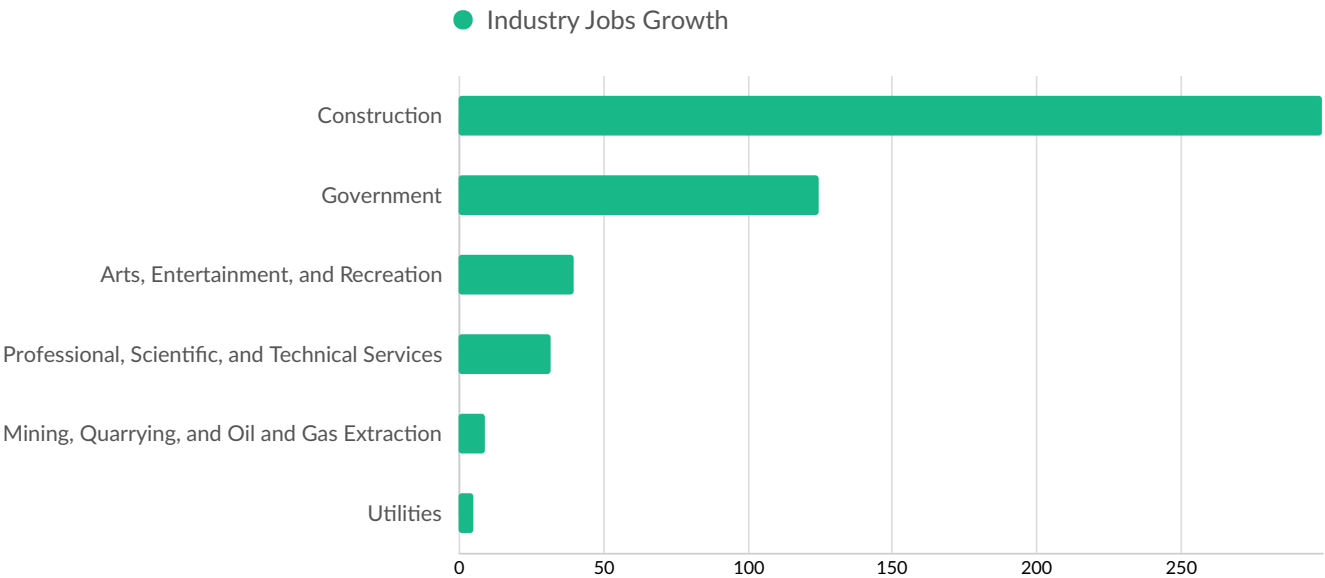
Top Previous Counties	Migrations
Saline County, KS	11
El Paso County, CO	11
Gallatin County, MT	9
Johnson County, KS	9
Leavenworth County, KS	8
Maricopa County, AZ	8
Lincoln County, WY	7
Suffolk County, NY	7
Chautauqua County, KS	7
Top Following Counties	Migrations
Sedgwick County, KS	239
Sumner County, KS	142
Kay County, OK	112
Butler County, KS	54
Johnson County, KS	31
Greene County, MO	25
Dallas County, TX	20
Bell County, TX	17
St. Louis County, MO	17
Riley County, KS	16
Shawnee County, KS	15
Jefferson County, CO	14
Fort Bend County, TX	13
Saline County, KS	11
Izard County, AR	10

Industry Characteristics

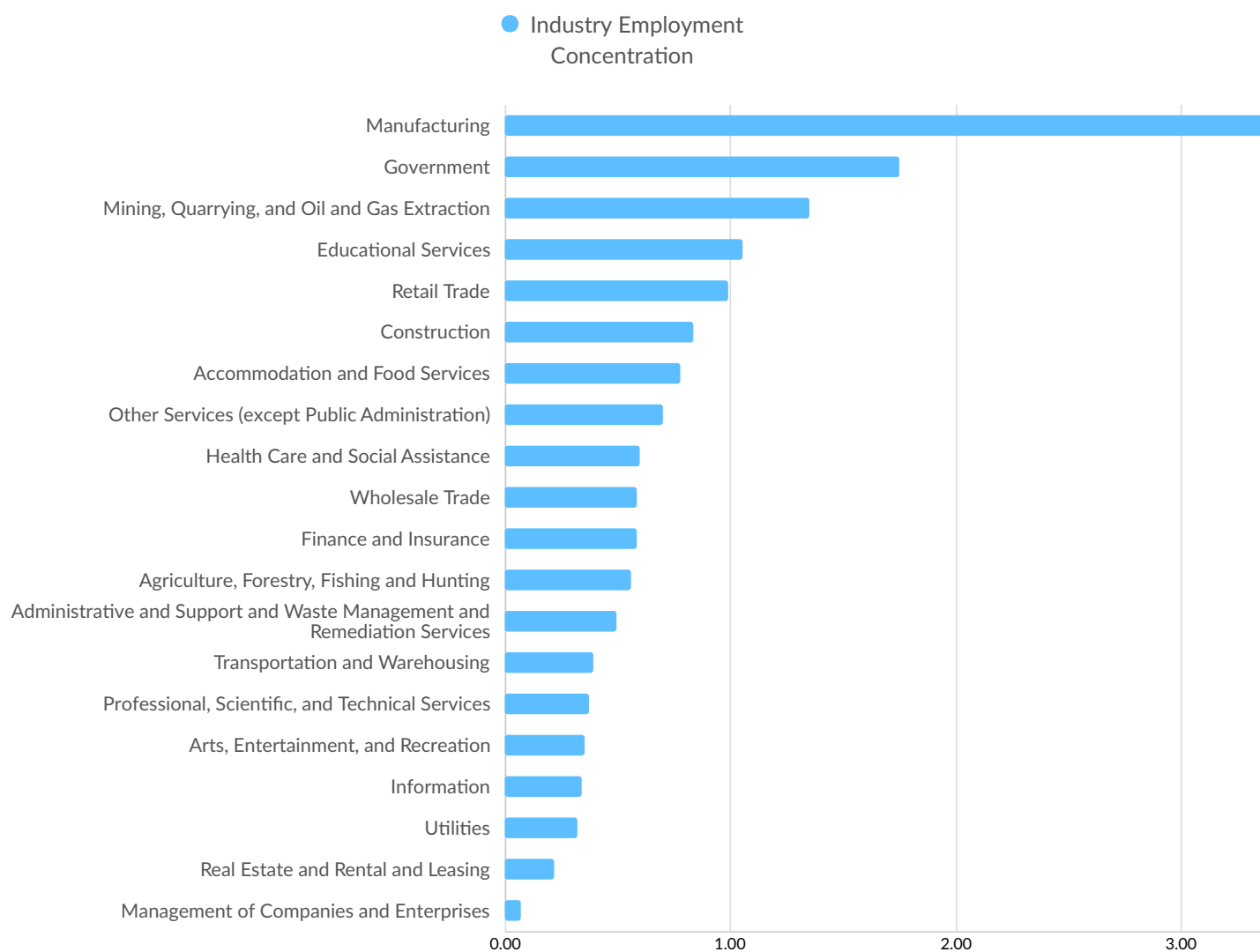
Largest Industries



Top Growing Industries



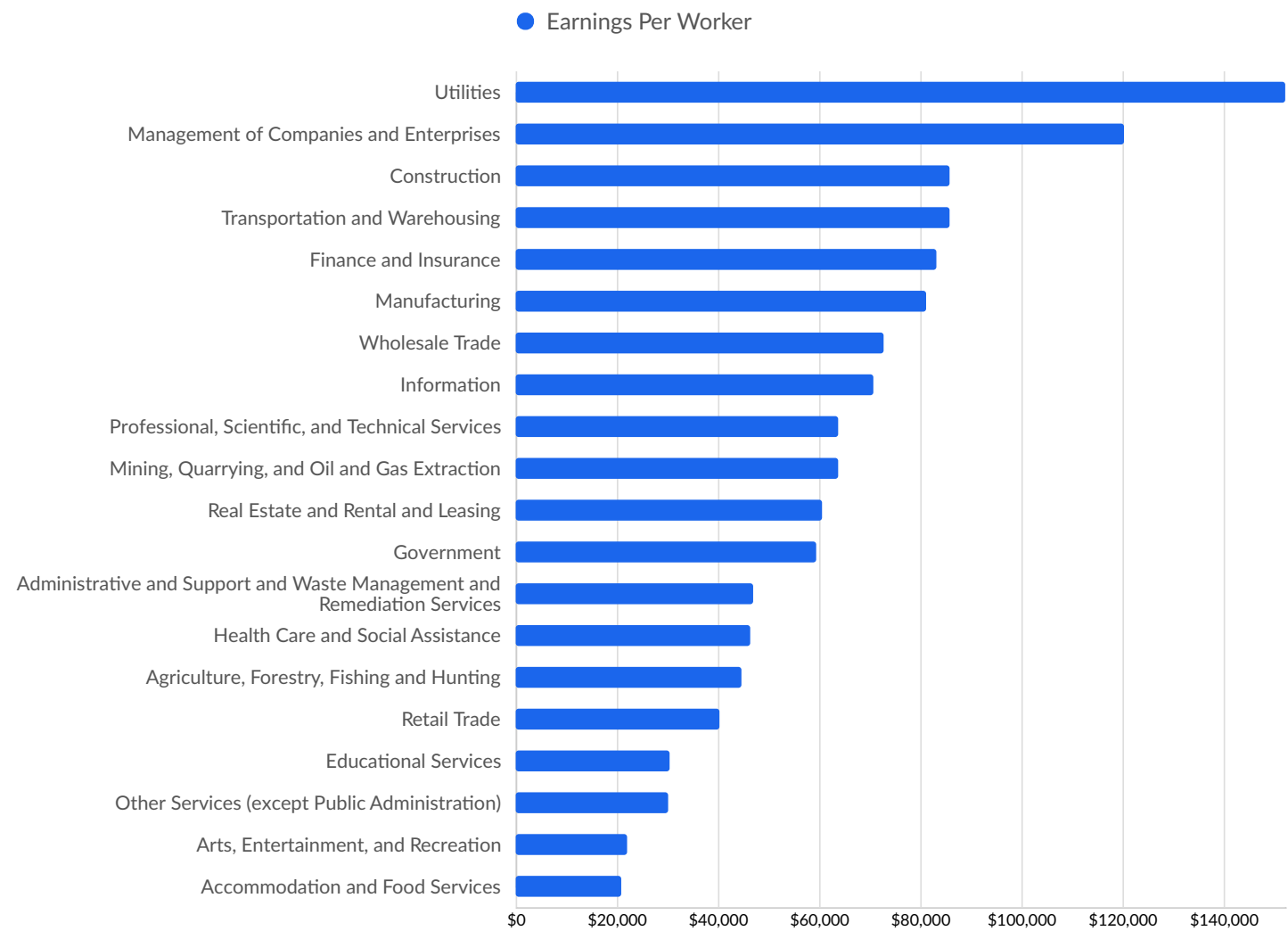
Top Industry Employment Concentration



Top Industry GRP



Top Industry Earnings



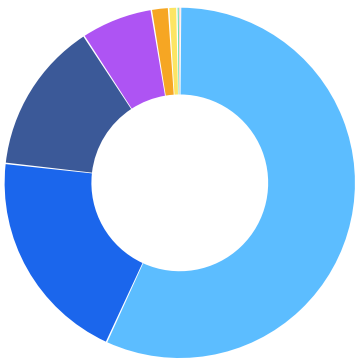
Business Characteristics

1,789 Companies Employ Your Workers

Online profiles for your workers mention 1,789 companies as employers, with the top 10 appearing below. In the last 12 months, 477 companies in Cowley County, KS posted job postings, with the top 10 appearing below.

Top Companies	Profiles	Top Companies Posting	Unique Postings
Winfield Usd 465	208	Creekstone Farms	158
GE Aerospace	187	Creekstone Farms Premium Beef	103
Southwestern College	149	GE Aerospace	102
Creekstone Farms Premium Beef	145	Walmart	102
Cowley College	133	Dillons	81
Usd 470 Arkansas City	104	William Newton Hospital	78
Kanpak	100	State of Kansas	58
William Newton Hospital	88	Kroger	56
Spirit AeroSystems	83	City Of Arkansas City	51
Newell Brands	51	Domino's Pizza	47

Business Size

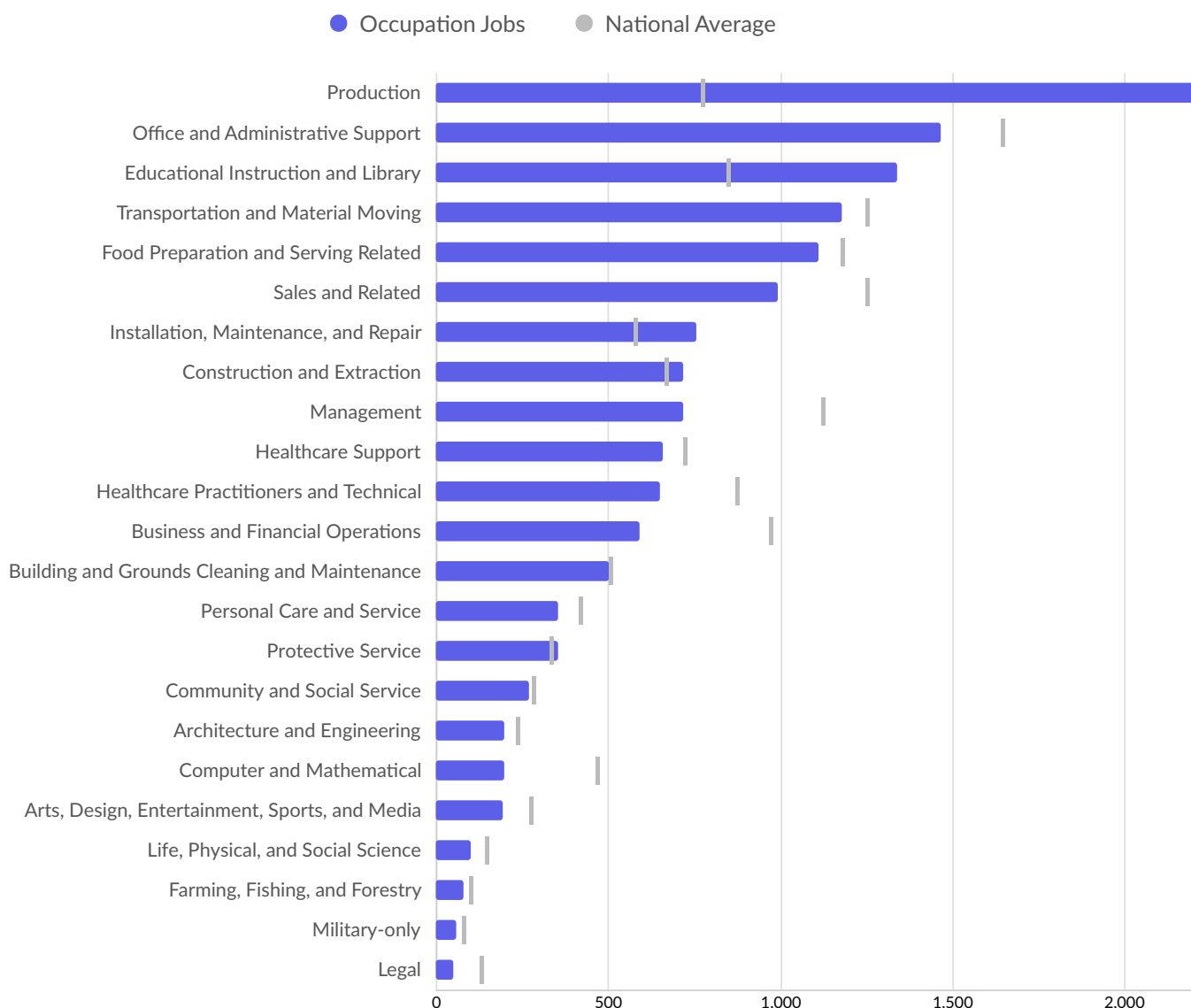


	Percentage	Business Count
1 to 4 employees	56.8%	1,041
5 to 9 employees	19.9%	365
10 to 19 employees	14.0%	257
20 to 49 employees	6.6%	121
50 to 99 employees	1.6%	29
100 to 249 employees	0.8%	14
250 to 499 employees	0.2%	4
500+ employees	0.1%	2

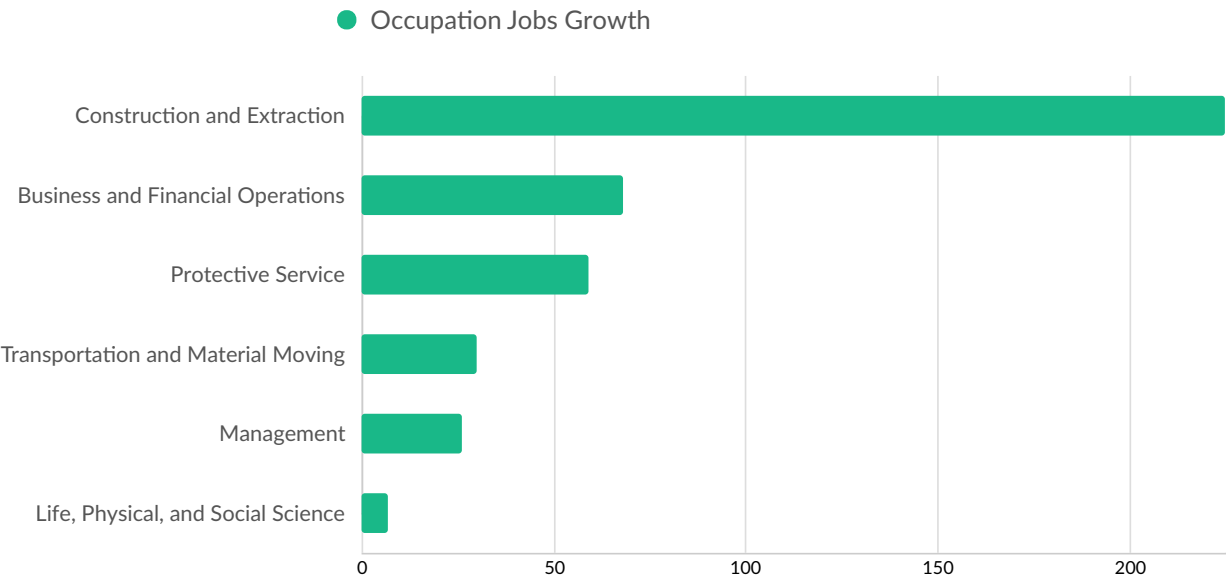
**Business Data by DatabaseUSA.com is third-party data provided by Lightcast to its customers as a convenience, and Lightcast does not endorse or warrant its accuracy or consistency with other published Lightcast data. In most cases, the Business Count will not match total companies with profiles on the summary tab.*

Workforce Characteristics

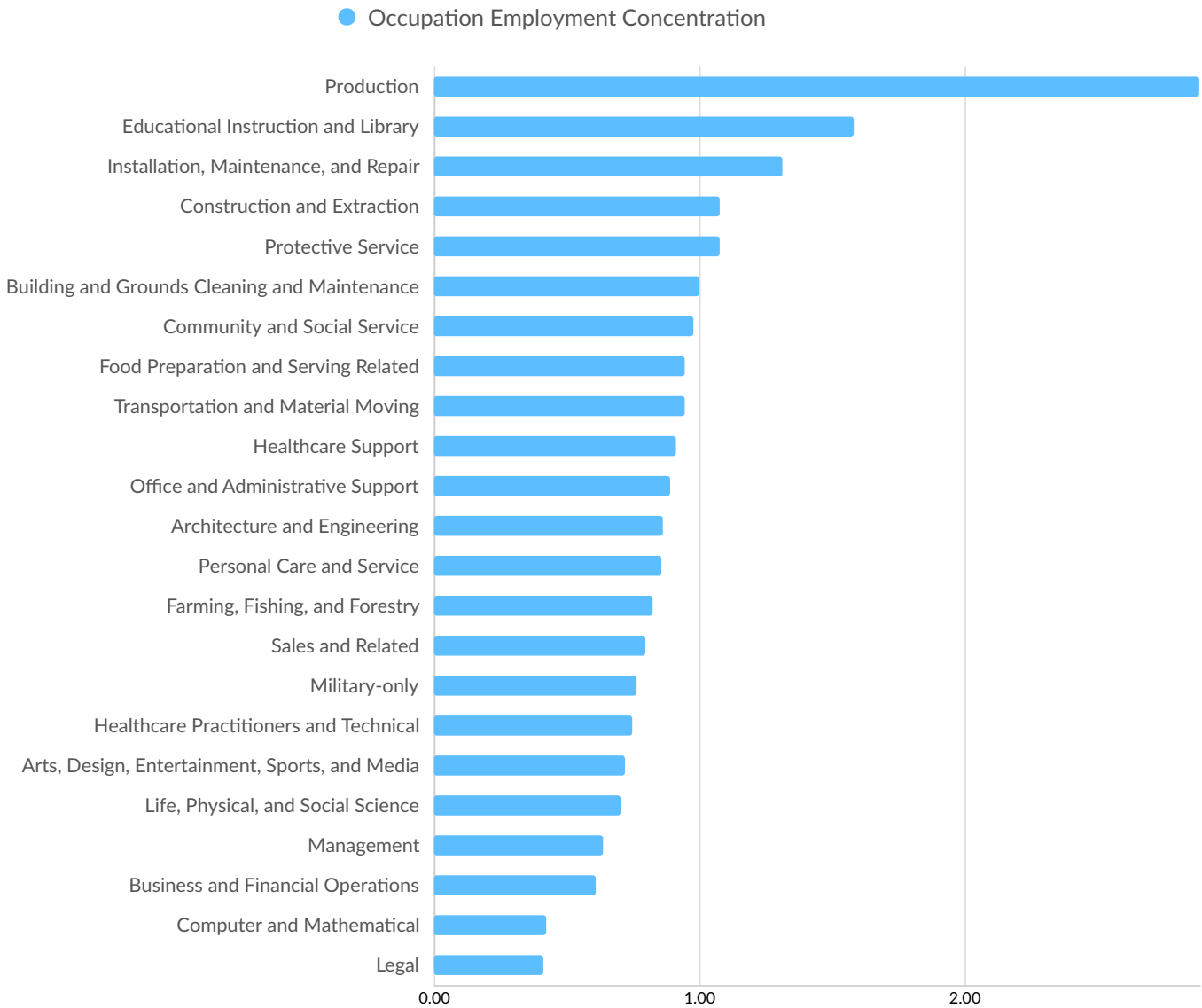
Largest Occupations



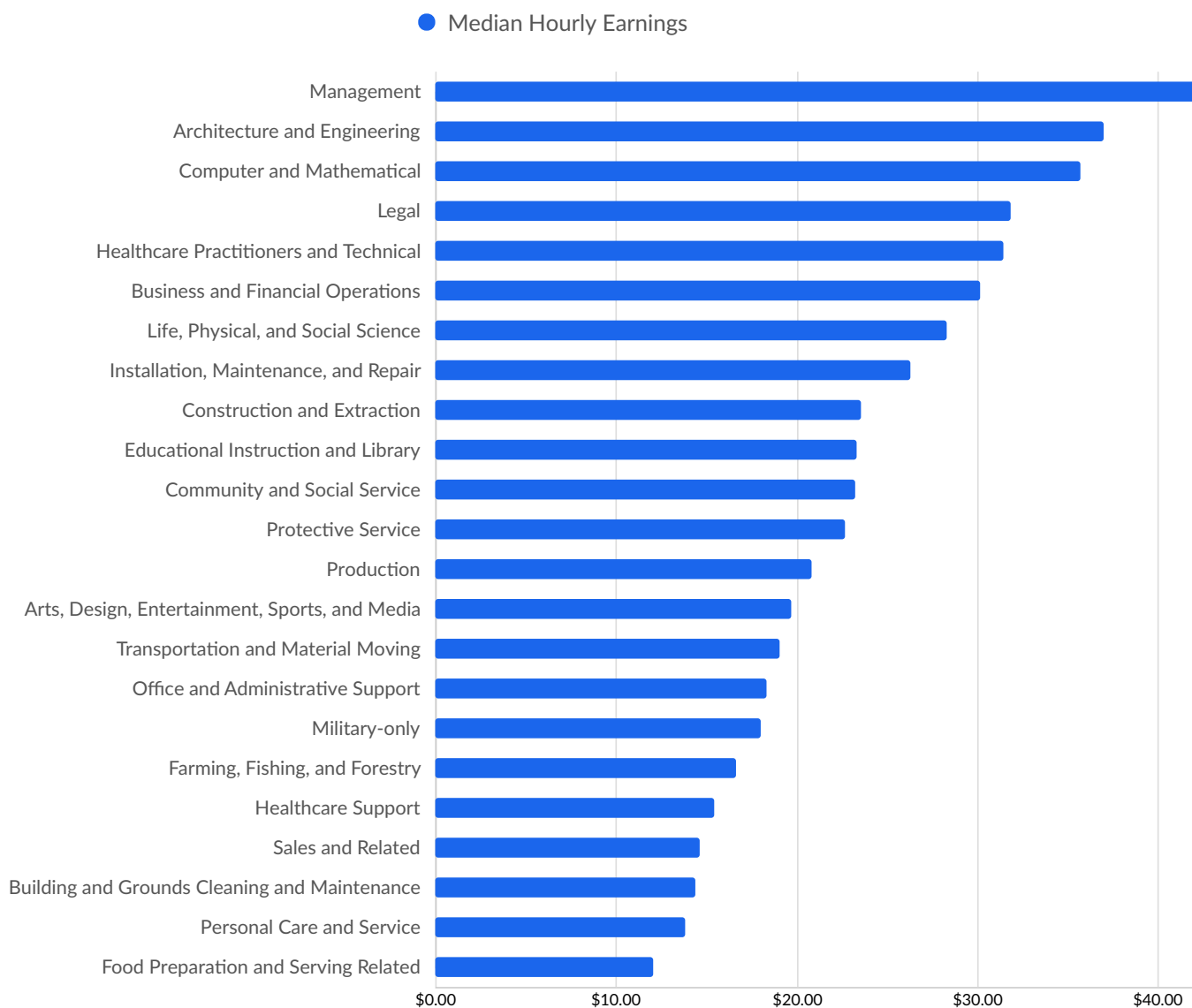
Top Growing Occupations



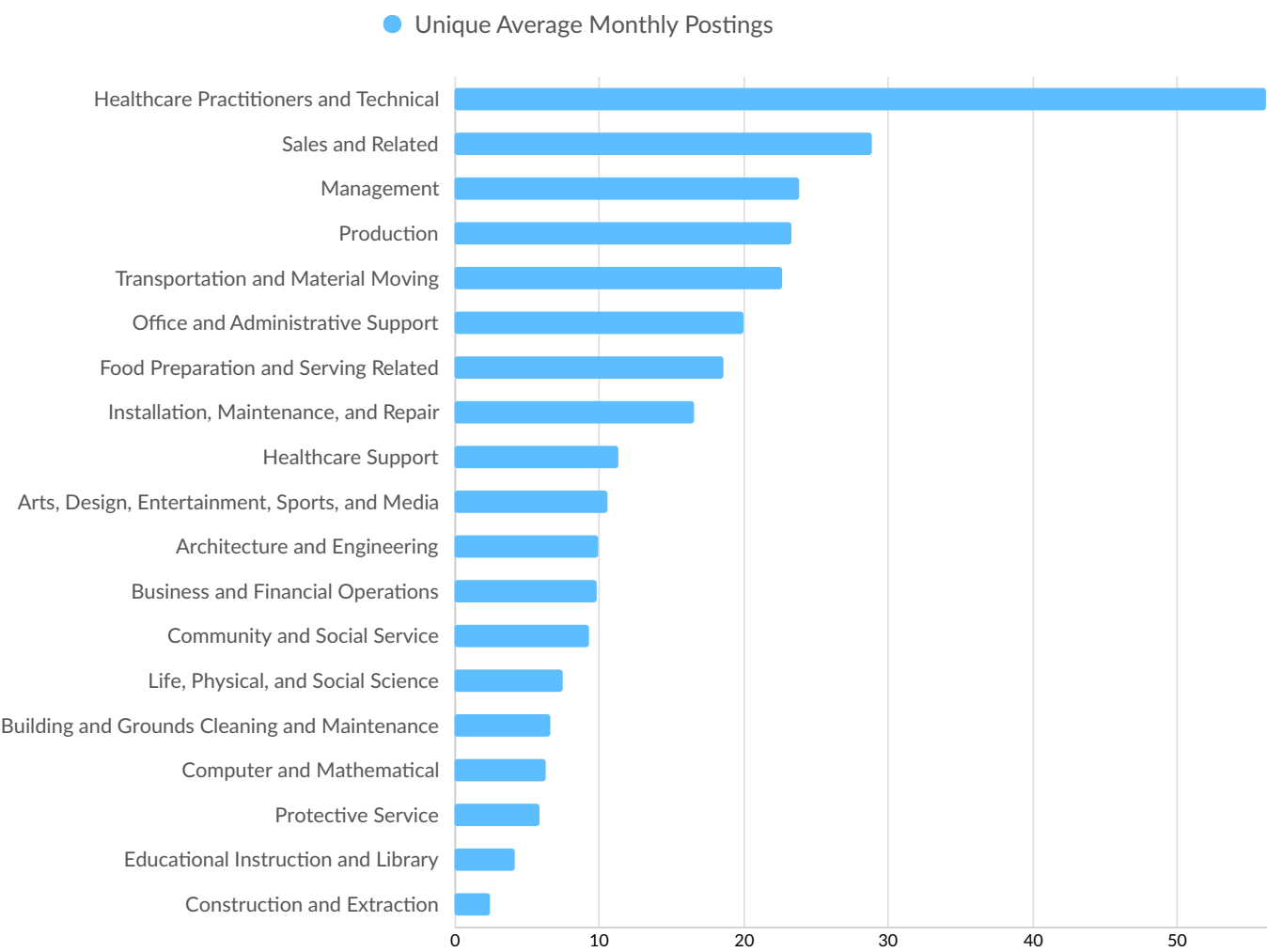
Top Occupation Employment Concentration



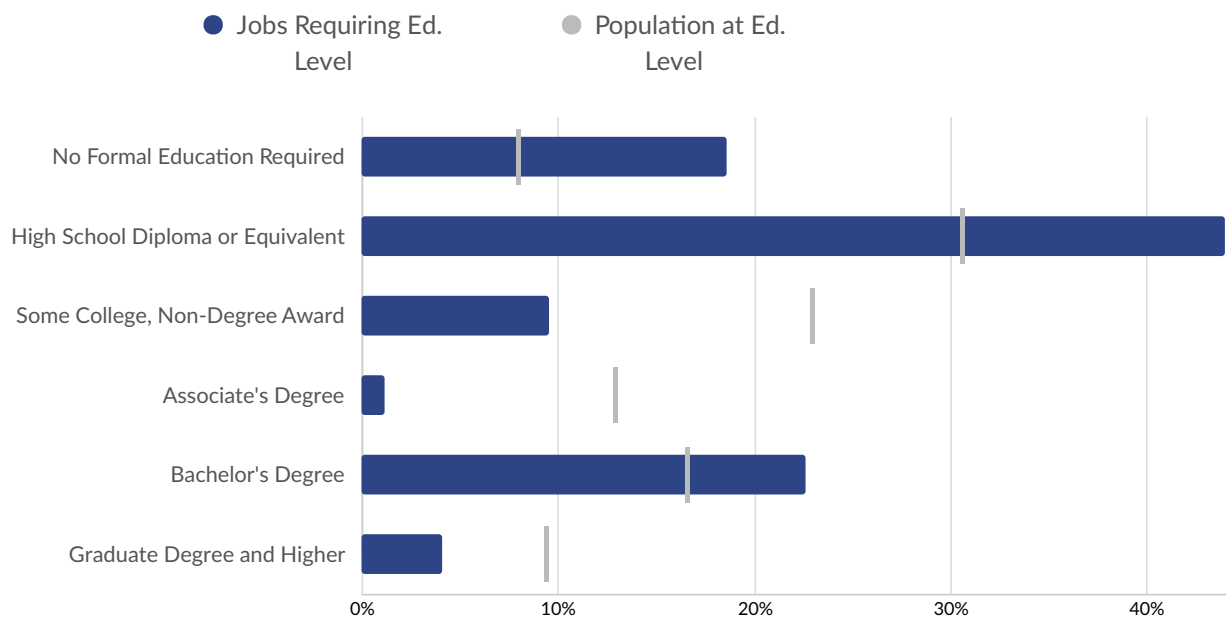
Top Occupation Earnings



Top Posted Occupations

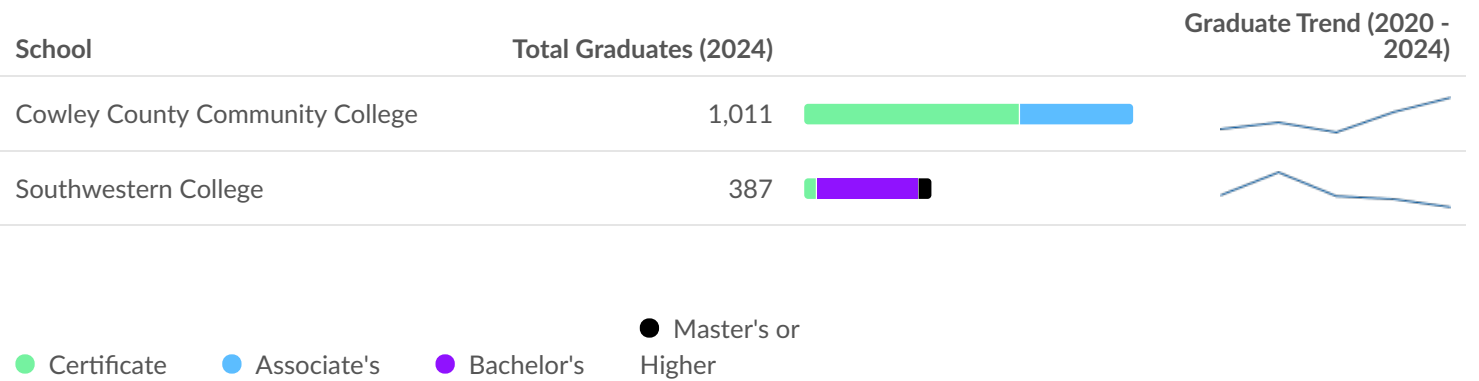


Underemployment



Educational Pipeline

In 2024, there were 1,398 graduates in Cowley County, KS. This pipeline has grown by 12% over the last 5 years. The highest share of these graduates come from "Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies" (Associate's), "Nursing Assistant/Aide and Patient Care Assistant/Aide" (Certificate), and "Welding Technology/Welder" (Certificate).



In-Demand Skills

