

# Economic Profile

## Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

This section summarizes the population in terms of adults of working age who are part of the local labor force. Employment is examined in terms of people employed in various industries and occupational categories. Unemployment rates are also analyzed. Average earnings in the county are outlined by job and industry.

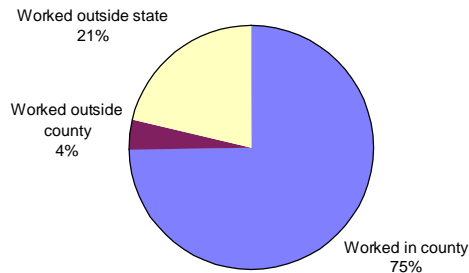
Table 2.1 Labor Force Status, 2000

	Rock Port City		Atchison County		Missouri	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Population 16 years and over	1,152	100	5,133	100	4,331,369	100
In labor force	671	58	3,144	61	2,822,010	65
Civilian labor force	671	58	3,141	61	2,806,718	65
Employed	642	56	3,025	59	2,657,924	61
Unemployed	29	3	116	2	148,794	3
Armed Forces	0	0	3	0	15,292	0
Not in labor force	481	42	1,989	38	1,509,359	35

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing

Table 2.1 shows the labor status of persons 16 years and older in Rock Port City as compared to Atchison County and the State as reported in the 2000 Census. Rock Port City reported 1,152 persons 16 years of age and over in the 2000 Census (compared to 1,153 persons in 1990). Fifty-eight percent of Rock Port City adults were in the labor force as compared to 61 percent for Atchison County and 65 percent for the State. This indicates that over 40 percent of the persons of working age in Rock Port City had limited incomes or were dependent on public assistance in 2000. For comparison, in 1990 there were 639 persons in Rock Port City’s labor force – 3 percent fewer than in 2000. Labor force participation rate (LFPR) in Rock Port City in 1990 was 55 percent - smaller than 58 percent LFPR in year 2000 noted earlier.

Figure 2.1 Place of Work in Rock Port City in 2000



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing

Figure 2.1 shows place of work on a state and county level for people living in Rock Port City as reported in the 2000 Census. Seventy five percent of the people (473 people) who lived in Rock Port City worked in Atchison County. Four percent (24 people) worked in other Missouri counties and 21 percent (136 people) worked outside the State.

Commuting patterns in Atchison County changed greatly over the last decade. Based on 1990 Census, 562 employees commuted outside of Atchison County for work, whereas 420 employees commuted to Atchison County for work. In 2000, 822 employees commuted outside the county for work, while only 470 commuted to Atchison County (Census 2000). Thus, the gap between in- and outcommuters increased overtime, as more and more people commute to work outside the county.

Table 2.2 Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment  
in Atchison County, 1990 – 2002

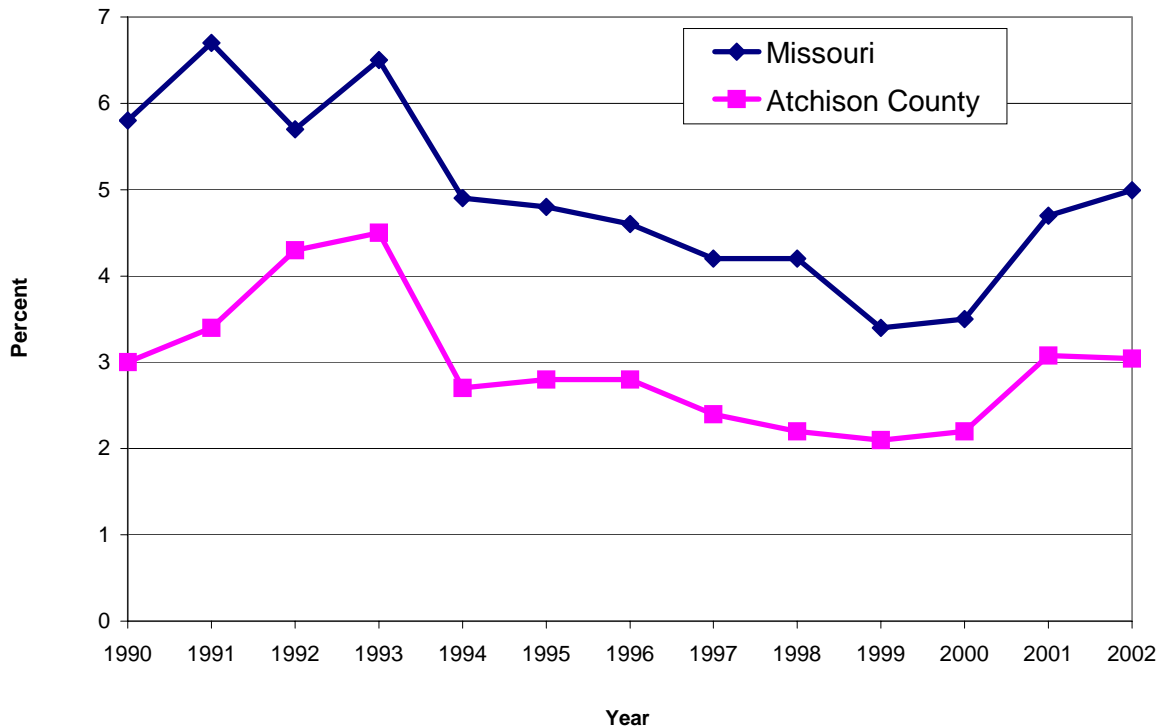
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (%)
1990	3,443	3,339	104	3.0
1991	3,285	3,172	113	3.4
1992	2,978	2,849	129	4.3
1993	2,819	2,691	128	4.5
1994	2,893	2,816	77	2.7
1995	3,232	3,143	89	2.8
1996	3,618	3,516	102	2.8
1997	3,557	3,470	87	2.4
1998	3,225	3,154	71	2.2
1999	3,076	3,012	64	2.1
2000	2,953	2,888	65	2.2
2001	3,021	2,928	93	3.1
2002	2,863	2,776	87	3.0
Percent Change, 1990-2002	-17%	-17%	-16%	0.0

Source: Missouri Department of Economic Development, <http://mo.works.state.mo.us/lmi/owa/adb.area1>

Table 2.2 shows changes in the labor force in Atchison County from 1990 to 2002. The labor force changes have been cyclical, with a decline between 1990 and 1993, followed by a 3-year increase, and a subsequent decline between 1996 and 2000, with an overall decline of 14 percent between 1990 and 2000 (for comparison, the total population in Atchison County also declined by 14 percent between 1990 and 2000). The number of people in Atchison County labor force in 2002 was 3 percent smaller than in 2000. The total number of employed persons in the county followed a trend similar to that of the labor force with a 17 percent decline between 1990 and 2002.

Note that employment figures in Table 2.2 represent employment by residence, i.e., the number of community residents who are currently employed, regardless of *where* they hold jobs – in their own community or outside its boundaries.

**Figure 2.2 Unemployment Rate in Atchison County and Missouri  
1990-2002**



Source: Missouri Department of Economic Development

Figure 2.2 shows the unemployment rate in Atchison County as compared to the State of Missouri for 1990 through 2002. Notice that Atchison County's rate remained lower than the State's throughout the entire period. This suggests that a smaller portion of people in Atchison County was unemployed with little or no income in comparison to the State average.

Increase in Missouri unemployment rate in 1991 was due to the nation-wide recession in the early 1990s. Another peak in Missouri unemployment rate occurred in 1993. Atchison County also experienced a peak in unemployment rate in 1993. High unemployment during that time was occurring throughout the state. The unemployment rate in the State declined from 1993 through the 1999. The decline was due to the strong economy, as well as the effects of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, and subsequent advent of the Welfare to Work (WtW) program.<sup>23</sup> Sharp increase in Missouri unemployment between 2000 and 2002 reflects the nation-wide economic slow-down. In 2002, the unemployment rate for the county was 2 percent lower than that of the State.

<sup>23</sup> Welfare-to-Work program was established by the Balanced Budget Act enacted on August 5, 1997. The Act authorized the U.S. Department of Labor to provide Welfare-to-Work Grants to the States and local communities to create additional job opportunities for the hardest-to-employ recipients of TANF. On November 29, 1999, the Welfare-to-Work and Child Support Amendments of 1999 were enacted which made programmatic changes to simplify eligibility for the Welfare-to-Work program. (Source: US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, <http://wtw.doleta.gov/resources/fact-grants.asp>)

Table 2.3 Employment by Size of Firm in Atchison County, 2000-2001

Size of Establishment	Employers, 2000		Employers, 2001	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Establishments	207	100	204	100
Establishments with:				
1-4 Employees	137	66	131	64
5-9 Employees	35	17	41	20
10-19 Employees	18	9	16	8
20-49 Employees	12	6	12	6
50-99 Employees	4	2	3	1
100-249 Employees	1	0	1	0
250 or more Employees	0	0	0	0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns,  
<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/cgi-local/cbpbin/post97/county.cgi>

Table 2.3 shows the number of employers for each size of firm in Atchison County in 2000 and 2001. In 2001, Atchison County had an employment base with 204 employers varying in size for up to 249 employees. However, the majority of companies (64 percent) had 1 to 4 employees.

The top three employers in Rock Port are Rock Port R-II school district, Pleasant View nursing home and Atchison County government.<sup>24</sup> It would be beneficial to educate the employers about employer-assisted housing benefits, as well as to encourage employers to post information on employee bulletin boards regarding housing availability and homebuyer education. Employers should also be encouraged to host homebuyer education at their place of business, providing an opportunity to take this service to where people work.

Table 2.4 Employment by Type of Job in Atchison County, 1990-2001

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Change between 1990 and 2001	Percent Change b/w 1990 and 2001
Total employment by place of work	4,014	3,777	3,443	3,432	3,468	3,749	3,988	4,012	3,753	3,593	3,537	3,449	-565	-14
Wage and salary employment	2,611	2,386	2,118	2,085	2,151	2,374	2,601	2,577	2,457	2,303	2,229	2,162	-449	-17
Proprietors' employment	1,403	1,391	1,325	1,347	1,317	1,375	1,387	1,435	1,296	1,290	1,308	1,287	-116	-8
Farm proprietors' employment	675	639	621	632	619	612	592	587	597	593	589	584	-91	-13
Nonfarm proprietors' employment	728	752	704	715	698	763	795	848	699	697	719	703	-25	-3

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Accounts Data, <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis>

Table 2.4 shows full- and part-time employment by workplace in Atchison County from 1990 to 2001. Employment by workplace is the number of jobs located in the county regardless of *who* is taking those jobs – local residents or in-commuters. Atchison County reported a 14-percent decrease in total employment from 1990 to 2001, with a loss of 565 positions. Wage and salary jobs declined by 17 percent, from 2,611 jobs in 1990 to 2,162 in 2001. The number of proprietors'<sup>25</sup> jobs decreased by 8 percent to 1,287 jobs in 2001, with 91 farm- and 25 non-farm jobs lost. The overall decrease in wage and salary employment over the last decade suggests a shrinking labor market.

<sup>24</sup> Per North-West Regional Council of Government, <http://www.nwmorcog.org/profiles/RP/employment.htm>

<sup>25</sup> Proprietors are noncorporate businesses, such as small farms, mom-and-pop stores, and law partnerships.

Table 2.5 Employment by Industry in Atchison County, 1990-2000

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change between 1990 and 2000	Percent Change b/w 1990 and 2000
Farm employment	856	800	795	765	762	764	742	717	707	685	688	-168	-20
Nonfarm employment	3,158	2,977	2,648	2,667	2,706	2,985	3,246	3,295	3,046	2,908	2,849	-309	-10
Private employment	2,670	2,495	2,181	2,194	2,221	2,511	2,763	2,807	2,551	2,415	2,373	-297	-11
Ag. services, forestry, fishing, & other	68	(D)	77	61	86	83	89	92	(D)	(D)	(D)	N/A	N/A
Mining	(L)	(L)	(L)	(L)	(L)	(L)	(L)	(L)	(L)	(L)	(L)	N/A	N/A
Construction	143	(D)	141	131	141	153	174	168	(D)	(D)	(D)	N/A	N/A
Manufacturing	365	337	123	67	76	60	55	56	52	49	50	-315	-86
Transportation and public utilities	196	212	201	228	209	221	221	211	210	222	235	39	20
Wholesale trade	174	172	156	142	129	134	132	132	141	153	149	-25	-14
Retail trade	590	554	541	603	641	658	723	733	686	607	573	-17	-3
Finance, insurance, and real estate	178	183	173	198	183	188	205	272	220	212	214	36	20
Services	952	841	766	761	752	1,008	1,159	1,137	1,011	920	907	-45	-5
Government and government enterprises	488	482	467	473	485	474	483	488	495	493	476	-12	-2
State and local	398	399	388	397	410	400	408	416	425	422	407	9	2

(D) Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals.  
(L) Less than 10 jobs, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals.

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Accounts Data, <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis>

Table 2.5 shows employment by industry in Atchison County from 1990 through 2000. Over the last decade, total farm employment declined by 20 percent to 688 jobs in 2000, and non-farm employment declined by 10 percent down to 2,849 jobs. The largest growth was seen in the transportation and public utilities, and finance, insurance and real estate sectors. These two sectors experienced an increase of 39 and 36 jobs respectively, or 20 percent growth each. The largest decline in both absolute and percentage terms was in manufacturing with 315 jobs lost or an 86 percent decrease. Nationally, employment is now growing the fastest in the services and retail trade sectors.

Table 2.6 Employment by Occupation, 2000

	Rock Port City		Atchison County		Missouri	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Employment	642	100	3,025	100	2,657,924	100
Management, professional, and related occupations	182	28	971	32	836,005	31
Professional and related occupations	106	17	517	17	495,109	19
Service occupations	118	18	469	16	399,052	15
Sales and office occupations	160	25	640	21	714,303	27
Sales and related occupations	87	14	297	10	296,965	11
Office and administrative support occupations	73	11	343	11	417,338	16
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	22	3	84	3	17,240	1
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	57	9	289	10	259,266	10
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	103	16	572	19	432,058	16
Production occupations	63	10	310	10	249,689	9
Transportation and material moving occupations	40	6	262	9	182,369	7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing

Table 2.6 shows the number of persons of working age who worked in particular occupations in Rock Port City as compared to Atchison County and the State. As reported in the 2000 Census, Rock Port City and Atchison County had similar top occupational categories with the State. Professional and managerial occupations are usually higher-paying jobs. Wages for positions in precision production and sales are usually mid-range, while administrative support and service positions historically pay lower wages. The table indicates a mix of low, medium and high paying jobs in Rock Port City among the top occupational categories.

## Earnings

Table 2.7 Average Earnings per Job in Atchison County, 1990-2001 (in \$2001)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Change b/w 1990 and 2001	Percent Change b/w 1990 and 2001
Average wage per job	\$17,757	\$18,333	\$18,216	\$17,842	\$17,843	\$17,790	\$17,570	\$17,848	\$18,926	\$19,475	\$19,631	\$20,061	\$2,304	13
Wage and salary disbursements (\$1,000)	\$46,366	\$43,742	\$38,581	\$37,201	\$38,380	\$42,234	\$45,701	\$45,994	\$46,501	\$44,851	\$43,759	\$43,371	-\$2,995	-6
Average nonfarm proprietor's income	\$24,697	\$24,126	\$25,233	\$25,357	\$22,950	\$21,310	\$22,336	\$23,724	\$27,397	\$28,993	\$26,790	\$19,789	-\$4,908	-20

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Accounts Data,  
<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis>

Table 2.7 shows the average earnings per job in Atchison County for the period from 1990 through 2001. Real average earnings per job grew by 13 percent to \$20,061 in 2001. Housing is considered affordable if less than 30 percent of the household income is spent on housing expenses including rent and utilities if renter-occupied or mortgage payment, taxes, insurance and utilities if owner-occupied. Average earnings per job in Atchison County translated to an affordable housing cost of \$502 per month in 2001.

Table 2.8 ES-202 Covered Employment and Wages by Industry  
 Atchison County, 1995-2000<sup>1</sup> (in 2001 Dollars)

	1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Average Annual Employment	Average Annual Wages	Average Annual Employment	Average Annual Wages	Average Annual Employment	Average Annual Wages	Average Annual Employment	Average Annual Wages	Average Annual Employment	Average Annual Wages	Average Annual Employment	Average Annual Wages
Agriculture	26	\$11,774	28	\$16,381	33	\$16,892	38	\$18,613	38	\$19,644	34	\$20,467
Construction	43	\$22,944	47	\$21,619	49	\$22,464	45	\$21,094	47	\$20,909	43	\$21,932
Manufacturing	45	\$25,826	39	\$18,599	39	\$12,730	38	\$13,867	33	\$16,045	34	\$13,947
Transportation	135	\$23,251	130	\$23,383	127	\$23,147	118	\$24,880	128	\$24,649	136	\$25,179
Wholesale	122	\$24,422	119	\$23,035	119	\$22,587	126	\$24,770	137	\$25,661	134	\$27,104
Retail	506	\$10,872	564	\$9,923	554	\$10,571	541	\$10,949	486	\$11,150	451	\$10,683
F.I.R.E.	102	\$22,507	107	\$24,214	118	\$22,992	120	\$23,780	123	\$23,636	116	\$25,249
Services	614	\$17,638	768	\$18,513	756	\$18,112	668	\$20,473	589	\$20,409	575	\$20,023
Government	434	\$21,068	443	\$21,540	452	\$20,540	456	\$21,364	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other <sup>2</sup>	1		0		0		13		458		445	
Total	2,028		2,245		2,247		2,163		2,039		1,968	
Average		\$17,921		\$17,786		\$17,506		\$18,741		\$19,327		\$19,561

1. All dollar figures are in 2001 dollars.

2. "Other" incorporates summary data which does not include data for at least 3 establishments, or has employment from a single employer constituting more than 75% of the group's employment.

3. (D) stands for Disclosure.

Source: BLS, <http://data.bls.gov/labjava/outside.jsp?survey=ew> and Missouri Employment and Wages Annual Reports, 1995-1998

Table 2.8 shows covered employment<sup>26</sup> by industry division with an average yearly wage for Atchison County. Average earnings for covered employment (adjusted for inflation) increased by 9 percent between 1995 and 2000, while total county covered employment actually decreased by 3 percent for the same time period. In 2001, average earnings per job covered by unemployment insurance in Atchison County were \$19,773, and in 2002 - \$19,693.<sup>27</sup>

This concludes the analysis of the economic section of the report. The next section depicts the housing profile of Rock Port City as compared to Atchison County and the State average.

<sup>26</sup> ES 202, aka the Employment, Wages, and Contributions Program is a joint Federal/State Cooperative project that tracks employment and wages reported under the Unemployment Insurance (U.I.) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (U.C.F.E.) programs.

<sup>27</sup> The table does not show 2001 and 2002 numbers for industries, because BLS switched from SIC to NAICS classification in 2001, making the comparisons with previous years difficult.