

# 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 are outlined by job, industry, and occupational category in the Grant City area.

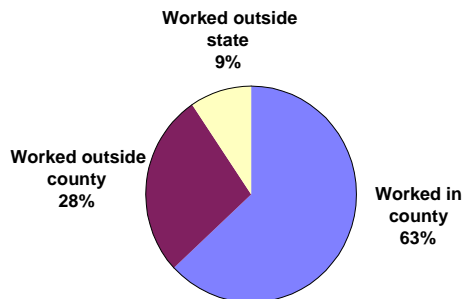
Table 2.1 Labor Force Status, 2000

|                              | Grant City |         | Worth  |         | Missouri  |         |
|------------------------------|------------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                              | Number     | Percent | Number | Percent | Number    | Percent |
| Population 16 years and over | 768        | 100     | 1,897  | 100     | 4,331,369 | 100     |
| In labor force               | 430        | 56      | 1,146  | 60      | 2,822,010 | 65      |
| Civilian labor force         | 430        | 56      | 1,146  | 60      | 2,806,718 | 65      |
| Employed                     | 388        | 51      | 1,078  | 57      | 2,657,924 | 61      |
| Unemployed                   | 42         | 6       | 68     | 4       | 148,794   | 3       |
| Armed Forces                 | 0          | 0       | 0      | 0       | 15,292    | 0       |
| Not in labor force           | 338        | 44      | 751    | 40      | 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 Grant City as compared to Worth County and the State as reported in the 2000 Census. Grant City reported 768 persons 16 years of age and over in the 2000 Census (compared to 783 persons in 1990). Fifty-six percent of Grant City adults were in the labor force as compared to 60 percent for Worth County and 65 percent for the State. This indicates that almost half of the persons of working age in Grant City had limited incomes or were dependent on public assistance in 2000. For comparison, in 1990 there were 387 persons in Grant City’s labor force – 10 percent fewer than in 2000. Labor force participation rate (LFPR) in Grant City in 1990 was 49 percent – smaller than 56 percent LFPR in year 2000 noted earlier.

**Figure 2.1 Place of Work in Grant 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 Grant City as reported

in the 2000 Census. Sixty three percent of the people who lived in Grant City worked in Worth County. Twenty eight percent (105 people) worked in other Missouri counties and 9 percent (36 people) worked outside the State.

Commuting patterns in Worth County changed greatly over the last decade. Based on 1990 Census, 191 employees commuted outside of Worth County for work, while only 63 employees commuted to Worth County for work. In 2000, 416 employees commuted outside the county for work, while only 182 commuted to Worth 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 Worth County, 1990 – 2002

|   | Labor Force | Employment | Unemployment | Unemployment Rate (%) |
|---|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1990                                    | 997         | 952        | 45           | 4.5                   |
| 1991                                    | 999         | 937        | 62           | 6.2                   |
| 1992                                    | 976         | 931        | 45           | 4.6                   |
| 1993                                    | 956         | 897        | 59           | 6.2                   |
| 1994                                    | 937         | 895        | 42           | 4.5                   |
| 1995                                    | 959         | 907        | 52           | 5.4                   |
| 1996                                    | 980         | 928        | 52           | 5.3                   |
| 1997                                    | 923         | 878        | 45           | 4.9                   |
| 1998                                    | 875         | 829        | 46           | 5.3                   |
| 1999                                    | 836         | 804        | 32           | 3.8                   |
| 2000                                    | 769         | 726        | 43           | 5.8                   |
| 2001                                    | 827         | 786        | 41           | 5.0                   |
| 2002                                    | 806         | 763        | 42           | 5.2                   |
| Percent Change between<br>1990 and 2002 | -19%        | -20%       | -7%          | 0.69                  |

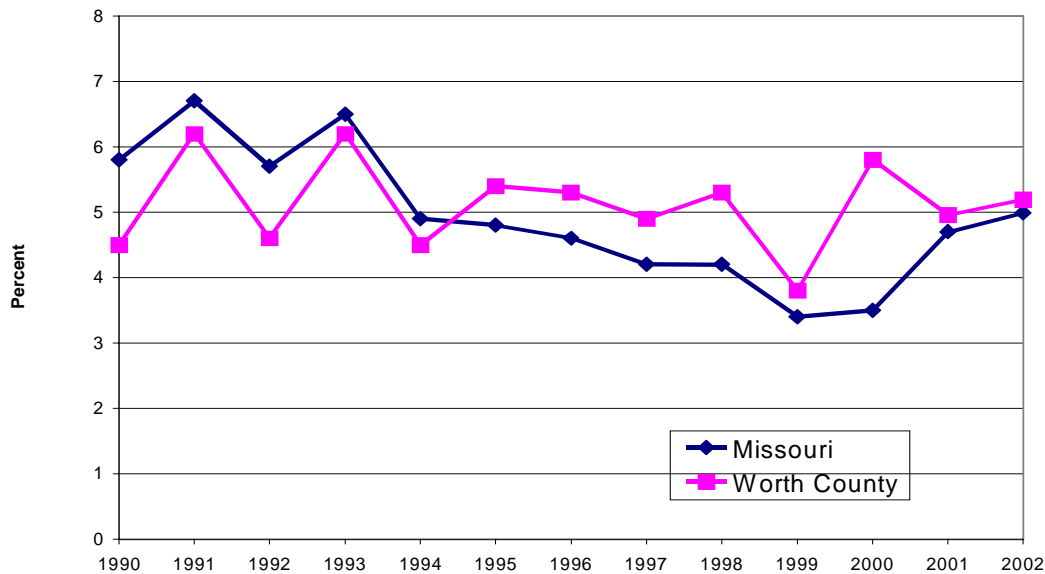
Source: Missouri Department of Economic Development, <http://mo.works.state.mo.us/lmi/owa/adb.area1>

Table 2.2 shows changes in the labor force in Worth County from 1990 to 2002. County labor force experienced a decline between 1991 and 1994, followed by a 2-year increase, and a subsequent decline between 1996 and 2000, with an overall decline of 23 percent during the past decade. The number of people in Worth County labor force in 2002 was larger than in 2000, but still falling short of its 1990 level by 19 percent. The total number of employed persons in the County followed a trend similar to that of the labor force with a 20 percent decline between 1990 and 2002. For comparison, the total population in Worth County declined by 6 percent between 1990 and 2002, indicating that the labor force decline was much more drastic than the population decline in the county.

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 shows the unemployment rate in Worth County as compared to the State of Missouri for 1990 through 2002. Increase in unemployment rate in 1991 was due to the nation-wide recession in the early 1990s. Another peak in unemployment rate occurred in 1993. High unemployment during that time was occurring throughout the state. The unemployment rate in the State declined from 1993 through 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>28</sup>

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



Source: Missouri Department of Economic Development

Notice that Worth County's rate remained approximately one-half percent higher than the State's from 1995 until 1999, before exceeding the State unemployment rate by 2.3 percent in 2000. This suggests that a larger portion of the people in Worth County was unemployed with little or no income in comparison to the State average. Sharp increase in Missouri unemployment between 2000 and 2001 reflects the nation-wide economic slow-down. In 2001 and 2002, the rates for the county and the State were almost equal.

<sup>28</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 Worth County, 2000-2001

| Size of Establishment | Employers, 2000 |         | Employers, 2001 |         |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|                       | Number          | Percent | Number          | Percent |
| Total Establishments  | 59              | 100.0   | 55              | 100.0   |
| Establishments with:  |                 |         |                 |         |
| 1-4 Employees         | 44              | 74.6    | 38              | 69.1    |
| 5-9 Employees         | 8               | 13.6    | 11              | 20.0    |
| 10-19 Employees       | 7               | 11.9    | 6               | 10.9    |
| >20 Employees         | 0               | 0.0     | 0               | 0       |

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

Table 2.3 shows the number of employers for each size of firm in Worth County in 2000 and 2001. Worth County’s employment base decreased from 59 employers in 2000 to 55 employers in 2001. In both years, the establishments in the county varied in size from 1 to 19 employees.

Table 2.4 Employment by Type of Job in Worth 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 | 1,263 | 1,220 | 1,196 | 1,272 | 1,294 | 1,356 | 1,351 | 1,366 | 1,377 | 1,312 | 1,271 | 1,181 | -82                          | -6                               |
| Wage and salary employment        | 660   | 627   | 622   | 645   | 627   | 616   | 607   | 589   | 591   | 562   | 513   | 528   | -132                         | -20                              |
| Proprietors' employment           | 603   | 593   | 574   | 627   | 667   | 740   | 744   | 777   | 786   | 750   | 758   | 653   | 50                           | 8                                |
| Farm proprietors' employment      | 399   | 387   | 383   | 407   | 413   | 423   | 424   | 431   | 438   | 436   | 433   | 429   | 30                           | 8                                |
| Nonfarm proprietors' employment   | 204   | 206   | 191   | 220   | 254   | 317   | 320   | 346   | 348   | 314   | 325   | 224   | 20                           | 10                               |

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 Worth 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. Worth County reported a 6-percent decrease in total employment by workplace from 1990 to 2001, with a loss of 82 positions. Wage and salary jobs declined by 20 percent, from 660 in 1990 to 528 in 2001. The number of proprietors’<sup>29</sup> jobs grew by 8 percent to 653 jobs in 2001, with 30 farm- and 20 non-farm jobs added over 1990 level. The overall decrease in wage and salary employment over the last decade suggests a shrinking labor market, however, an increase in proprietors’ employment indicates growth in entrepreneurial activities in the county.

Table 2.5 shows employment by industry in Worth County from 1990 through 2000. Over the last decade, total farm employment grew 5 percent to 446 jobs in 2000, while non-farm employment decreased by 2 percent down to 825 jobs. In analyzing private employment, the largest growth (in absolute terms) was seen in the services sector, which experienced an addition of 71 jobs, or 53 percent growth. The largest growth in percentage terms was in finance, insurance and real estate sector with a 150 percent growth, or 66 jobs added. In contrast, retail trade sector lost 69 positions, a decrease of 40 percent. Nationally, employment is now growing the fastest in the services and retail trade sectors.

<sup>29</sup> Proprietors are noncorporate businesses, such as small farms, mom-and-pop stores, and law partnerships.

Table 2.5 Employment by Industry in Worth 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                          | 424  | 408  | 405  | 424  | 430  | 441  | 441  | 448  | 452  | 448  | 446  | 22                           | 5                                |
| Nonfarm employment                       | 839  | 812  | 791  | 848  | 864  | 915  | 910  | 918  | 925  | 864  | 825  | -14                          | -2                               |
| Private employment                       | 605  | 580  | 551  | 597  | 619  | 661  | 656  | 675  | 696  | 631  | 596  | -9                           | -1                               |
| Ag. services, forestry, fishing, & other | (L)  | (L)  | (L)  | 19   | 21   | 27   | 28   | 31   | (D)  | (D)  | (D)  | N/A                          | N/A                              |
| Mining                                   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | (D)  | N/A                          | N/A                              |
| Construction                             | 52   | 56   | 61   | 63   | 68   | 62   | 63   | 75   | (D)  | 69   | 54   | 2                            | 4                                |
| Manufacturing                            | (D)  | (D)  | 130  | 132  | 126  | 129  | 122  | 109  | (D)  | (D)  | (D)  | N/A                          | N/A                              |
| Transportation and public utilities      | 17   | 17   | 15   | 19   | 17   | 21   | 20   | 23   | 26   | (D)  | (D)  | N/A                          | N/A                              |
| Wholesale trade                          | (D)  | (D)  | 38   | 40   | 39   | 27   | 25   | 24   | 25   | 25   | 27   | N/A                          | N/A                              |
| Retail trade                             | 171  | 136  | 131  | 136  | 141  | 144  | 140  | 120  | 142  | 108  | 102  | -69                          | -40                              |
| Finance, insurance, and real estate      | 44   | 39   | 37   | 36   | 53   | 74   | 77   | 106  | 106  | 100  | 110  | 66                           | 150                              |
| Services                                 | 133  | 158  | 135  | 152  | 154  | 177  | 181  | 187  | 202  | 197  | 204  | 71                           | 53                               |
| Government and government enterprises    | 234  | 232  | 240  | 251  | 245  | 254  | 254  | 243  | 229  | 233  | 229  | -5                           | -2                               |
| State and local                          | 191  | 193  | 202  | 214  | 207  | 218  | 217  | 210  | 198  | 200  | 193  | 2                            | 1                                |

(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 2.6 Employment by Occupation, 2000

|   | Grant City town |         | Worth  |         | Missouri  |         |
|---|-----------------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|
|   | Number          | Percent | Number | Percent | Number    | Percent |
| Total Employment  | 388             | 100     | 1,078  | 100     | 2,657,924 | 100     |
| Management, professional, and related occupations           | 96              | 25      | 323    | 30      | 836,005   | 31      |
| Professional and related occupations                        | 53              | 14      | 121    | 11      | 495,109   | 19      |
| Service occupations   | 53              | 14      | 166    | 15      | 399,052   | 15      |
| Sales and office occupations                                | 90              | 23      | 220    | 20      | 714,303   | 27      |
| Sales and related occupations                               | 39              | 10      | 90     | 8       | 296,965   | 11      |
| Office and administrative support occupations               | 51              | 13      | 130    | 12      | 417,338   | 16      |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations                  | 19              | 5       | 43     | 4       | 17,240    | 1       |
| Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations       | 51              | 13      | 120    | 11      | 259,266   | 10      |
| Production, transportation, and material moving occupations | 79              | 20      | 206    | 19      | 432,058   | 16      |
| Production occupations                                      | 36              | 9       | 113    | 10      | 249,689   | 9       |
| Transportation and material moving occupations              | 43              | 11      | 93     | 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 Grant City as compared to Worth County and the State. As reported in the 2000 Census, Grant City and Worth 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 Grant City among the top occupational categories.

In comparison to the State, Grant City reported a larger percentage of people in farming, fishing and forestry occupations, and transportation and material moving occupations, with a smaller percentage of people in management, professional, and related occupations, and sales and office occupations. Worth County reported similar percentages to the State within most categories, except for professional and related occupations, and sales and office occupations, for which the percentages were somewhat lower, and for farming, fishing, and forestry occupations, and production, transportation, and material moving occupations, for which the percentages were higher.

## Earnings

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

|  | 1990     | 1991     | 1992     | 1993     | 1994     | 1995     | 1996     | 1997     | 1998     | 1999     | 2000     | 2001     | Change b/w<br>1990 and 2001 | Percent Change<br>b/w 1990 and 2001 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Average wage per job                       | \$14,637 | \$14,875 | \$14,841 | \$14,007 | \$14,689 | \$15,041 | \$15,431 | \$16,388 | \$16,306 | \$17,243 | \$17,023 | \$17,013 | \$2,376                     | 16                                  |
| Wage and salary<br>disbursements (\$1,000) | \$9,660  | \$9,327  | \$9,231  | \$9,035  | \$9,210  | \$9,265  | \$9,366  | \$9,653  | \$9,637  | \$9,691  | \$8,733  | \$8,983  | -\$677                      | -7                                  |
| Average nonfarm<br>proprietor's income     | \$23,188 | \$19,517 | \$19,661 | \$18,401 | \$16,467 | \$15,133 | \$14,187 | \$13,630 | \$12,217 | \$14,838 | \$12,756 | \$13,147 | -\$10,041                   | -43                                 |

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 Worth County for the period from 1990 through 2001. Average earnings per job grew 16 percent to just over \$17,000 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 Worth County translated to an affordable housing cost of \$425 per month in 2001.

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

|                    | 1995                            |                            | 1996                            |                            | 1997                            |                            | 1998                            |                            | 1999                            |                            | 2000                            |                            |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                    | Average<br>Annual<br>Employment | Average<br>Annual<br>Wages | Average<br>Annual<br>Employment | Average<br>Annual<br>Wages | Average<br>Annual<br>Employment | Average<br>Annual<br>Wages | Average<br>Annual<br>Employment | Average<br>Annual<br>Wages | Average<br>Annual<br>Employment | Average<br>Annual<br>Wages | Average<br>Annual<br>Employment | Average<br>Annual<br>Wages |
| Agriculture        | (D) <sup>3</sup>                | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        |
| Mining             | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        |
| Construction       | 13                              | \$15,623                   | 13                              | \$16,202                   | 20                              | \$14,605                   | 24                              | \$15,838                   | 24                              | \$18,527                   | 11                              | \$18,184                   |
| Manufacturing      | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | 93                              | \$15,210                   | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        |
| Transportation     | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        | 9                               | \$17,402                   | 10                              | \$18,182                   | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        |
| Wholesale          | 24                              | \$18,856                   | 22                              | \$20,755                   | 21                              | \$23,002                   | 22                              | \$23,417                   | 22                              | \$23,143                   | 24                              | \$21,135                   |
| Retail             | 81                              | \$11,671                   | 76                              | \$10,248                   | 67                              | \$11,760                   | 84                              | \$10,172                   | 76                              | \$10,004                   | 70                              | \$9,174                    |
| F.I.R.E.           | 25                              | \$18,361                   | 27                              | \$19,800                   | 26                              | \$22,328                   | 25                              | \$23,008                   | 24                              | \$23,570                   | 26                              | \$24,756                   |
| Services           | 53                              | \$11,044                   | 57                              | \$10,846                   | 57                              | \$11,661                   | 60                              | \$12,886                   | 61                              | \$16,186                   | 65                              | \$14,030                   |
| Government         | 238                             | \$17,372                   | 241                             | \$17,868                   | 229                             | \$18,829                   | 217                             | \$18,901                   | (D)                             | (D)                        | (D)                             | (D)                        |
| Other <sup>2</sup> | 118                             | \$13,360                   | 113                             | \$13,718                   |                                 |                            | 82                              | \$15,230                   | 288                             |                            | 252                             |                            |
| Total              | 552                             |                            | 549                             |                            | 522                             |                            | 524                             |                            | 495                             |                            | 448                             |                            |
| Average            |                                 | \$15,138                   |                                 | \$15,457                   |                                 | \$16,683                   |                                 | \$16,445                   |                                 | \$17,439                   |                                 | \$17,236                   |

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>30</sup> by industry division with an average yearly wage for Worth County. Average earnings for covered employment (adjusted for inflation) increased by 14 percent between 1995 and 2000, while total county covered employment actually decreased by 19 percent for the same time period. In 2001, average earnings per job covered by unemployment insurance in

<sup>30</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.

Worth County were \$17,192, demonstrating a continuous decline from their 1999 level.<sup>31</sup> For the disclosed portion of the data, (covered) wages in retail sector decreased between 1995 and 2000, while wages in other sectors showed some gain.

**Table 2.9 Grant City Major Employers**

| Company Name                       | Product/ Service  | Number of Employees | Avg. Yearly Wage/Salary   | Employees to be Added in 5 years |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Worth County R-III School District | Public Education  | 72                  | \$30,729 teachers<br>\$59,268 administr.<br>\$18,013 non-certified employees      | None                             |
| Convalescence Center               | Care Center       | 53                  | \$25,563 trained employees<br>\$15,912 lower-paid personnel                       | None                             |
| Worth County                       | County Government | 23                  | \$7,111 – \$24,000 non-elected employees<br>\$3, 575 - \$24,035 elected officials | None                             |

Source: NW MO Regional Council of Governments, Online Community Profiles, <http://www.nwmorcog.org/profiles/gc/employment.htm> and Rhonda Richards, Worth County Economic Developer

Table 2.9 lists top three employers in Grant City, their product or service, number of employees, average yearly wage, and the projected number of employees to be added in the next five years. The top three employees account for 34 percent of the total persons in the City civilian labor force. Note, that the average wages for school district employees range between approximately \$18,000 and \$59,270 (depending on qualification), corresponding to a maximum affordable housing cost of \$450 to \$1,482 per month. However, the Panel made a comment that a lot of school district employees do not live in Worth County. Wages for the Convalescence Center were reported in the range of \$15,910 to \$25,560, corresponding to a maximum affordable housing cost of \$398 to \$639 per month. Non-elected county employees are earning a maximum of \$24,000, which corresponds to a maximum affordable housing cost of \$600/month. The top three employers indicated that they have no plans to increase staffing levels in the next five years.

The other major employers in the county as a whole are Restaurants, Wool (Wholesale), Post Offices, Grocers (Retail), Convenience Stores and Fertilizers (retail).

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.

This concludes the analysis of the economic section of the report. The next section depicts the housing profile of Grant City as compared to Worth County and the State average. The profile is based on the secondary data from the Census Bureau, County Assessor’s Office and other sources, as well as the primary data collected during the windshield survey.

<sup>31</sup> The table does not show 2001 numbers for industries, because BLS switched from SIC to NAICS classification in 2001, making the comparisons with previous years difficult.