

Hazard Mitigation Plan Community of Lyon County, KS

Section 3 Jurisdiction Information

This Section provides a broad perspective, brief history, and describes the make up and development of the community.

FIPS:

111

Latitude:

38.45

Longitude:

-96.15

Population:

35,935

Topography:

The majority of Lyon County is located in the Osage Cuesta Plains region of Flinthills Uplands. The main topographic features are the southeast-trending Neosho River and the east-trending Cottonwood River Valleys and the uplands, which consist of rounded to steep hills. The slopes toward the valleys are rather steep resulting in rapid runoff from the tributary streams. The soil in the alluvial valleys is silty clay and silty clay loams on the uplands.

Emporia serves as the county seat, and is the largest populated area in the county. In addition, there are the communities of Bushong, Allen, Admire, Americus, Reading, Neosho Rapids, Hartford and Olpe.

Climate:

Lyon County's climate is typical of the Midwest region of the U.S. with wide fluctuations in temperature, precipitation, and humidity. Frequent weather changes occur both from day-to-day and from season-to-season. Summer precipitation generally results from thunderstorm activity of high intensity and short duration. Average annual precipitation totals approximately 37 inches. Average annual temperature is 55 degrees Fahrenheit (NOAA, 1975). Lyon County is characterized by hot summers with temperatures occasionally climbing above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and cold winters with temperatures going below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Weather Data for Lyon County, Kansas

Average Daily Temperature 55 degrees F

January 38 degrees F (high) 17 degrees F (low)

April 66 degrees F (high) 42 degrees F (low)

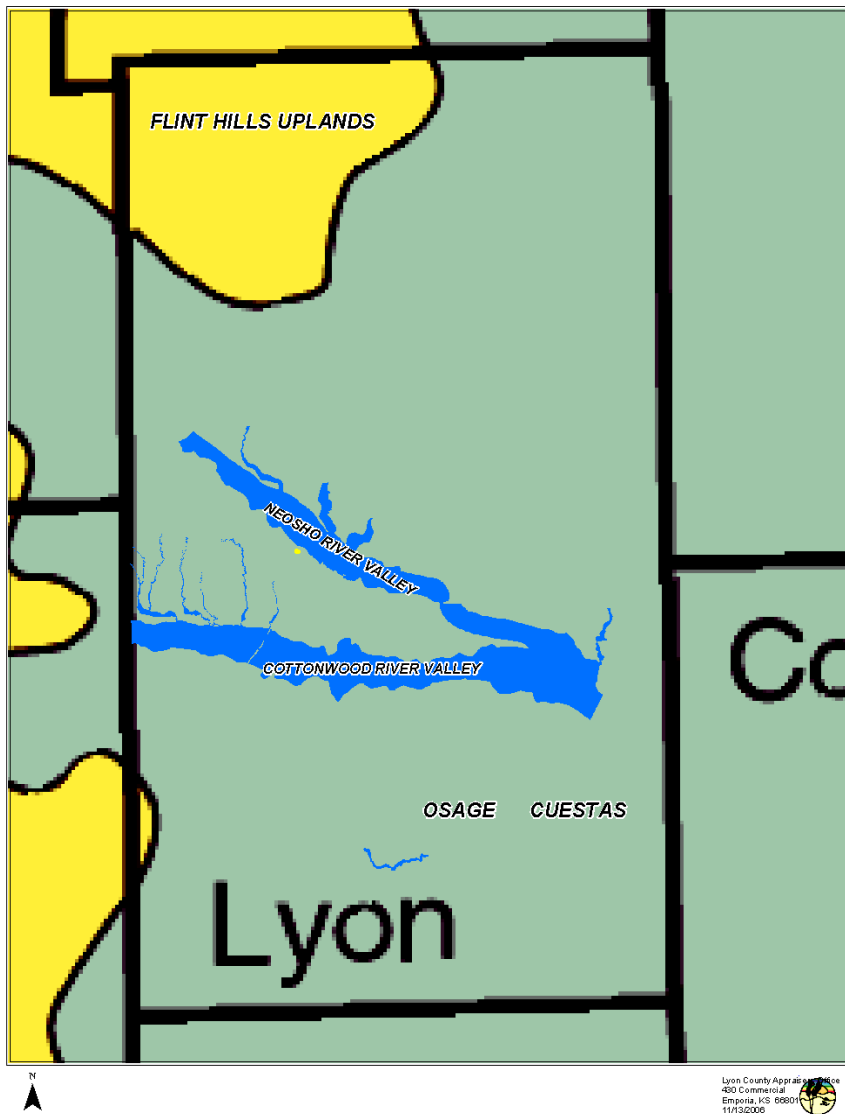
July 90 degrees F (high) 68 degrees F (low)
October 69 degrees F (high) 45 degrees F (low)

Average Annual Precipitation 37 inches

January 0.95 inches
April 2.98 inches
July 4.16 inches
October 2.76 inches

Prevailing Winds

Warm months (Late Spring / Summer) S / SW
Cold months (Late Autumn / Winter) N / NW



Demographics:

The total population for Lyon County is 35,935 (2000 census). The land area for Lyon County is 855 square miles. Population per square mile is 42.03.

Lyon County, Kansas Census 2000 Demographic Profile

SUBJECT	NUMBER	PERCENT
TOTAL POPULATION	35,953	100
Male	17,732	49.3
Female	18,203	50.7
Median Age	30.9	
Under 5 years	2,473	6.9
18 years & over	26,685	74.3
65 years & over	4,183	12.4
Race	39,390	97.2
White	29,924	83.3
Black / African American	815	2.3
American Indian	165	0.5
Asian	733	2.0
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	2	0.0
Some other Race	3,518	9.8
Two or more Races	775	2.2
Hispanic / Latino (Hispanic population strongest growth since 2000)	6,010	16.7
Household Population	34,322	95.5
Group quarters population	1,613	4.5
Average household size	2.51	
Average family size	3.12	
Total housing units	14,757	
Occupied housing units	13,691	92.8
Owner occupied	8,352	61.0
Renter occupied	5,339	39.0
Vacant housing units	1,066	7.2
Social Characteristics		
Population 25 and over	20,559	
High School Graduate	16,827	81.8
Bachelor Degree or higher	4,728	23.0
Civilian Veterans	2,924	11.0
Disability Status	5,720	17.3
Foreign Born	3,247	9.0
Male now married (15+)	7,782	56.3
Female now married	7,364	50.9
Language other than English	5,161	15.4
In labor force (16+)	19,276	69.4
Mean travel time to work	15.9 min.	

Economy:

The City of Emporia is the largest city in Lyon County and also the largest city in any of the adjacent counties. Emporia serves as a regional shopping area for residents in parts of Chase, Greenwood, Coffey, Morris, Wabaunsee, and Osage Counties. A 2003 trade pull study found that Lyon County had a retail trade pull factor of .093

while Emporia had a pull factor of 1.13. It can be inferred that some County residents are traveling to larger metropolitan centers such as Wichita, Topeka, and Kansas City for shopping. Lyon County relies primarily on agriculture. The City of Emporia relies upon a mix of industry, state university, hospital, and small businesses for Emporia's economy. Of the industries in Emporia Tyson Fresh Meats has the largest work force. During the year of 2003 19,439 people were in the labor force (Downtown Market Analysis 2004 by Richard Caplan and Associates). In the year of 2000 that figure was 19,276 or 69.4% (US Census).

In 2000 the average wage per job in Lyon County was \$22,443. That was \$6,242 less than the average wage for the State of Kansas. The per capita income in Lyon County grew slower than the state rate and at \$21,466 was \$5,908 behind the State's average in year 2000 (Market Study). In year 2000 per capita personal income for Lyon County ranked 69th among the State's 105 counties. The figures for year 2000 indicate that 14.5% of Lyon County residents had income below poverty level, compared with a poverty rate of 12.4% for the U. S. at that time (U.S. Census).

Median household income \$32,819

Median family income \$43,112

Per Capita Income \$15,724

Family below poverty level 841 0.96

Individual below poverty level 4,978 14.5

Industry:

The economy is based in agriculture. Top crops items based on acres were forage, soybeans, wheat, corn, and sorghum. As of 2002, 898 farms were operating in the county. Over 493,853 acres of land were planted and harvested according to 2002 statistics from NASS Fact Finder for Agriculture, USDA. The average size farm in 2002 was 550 acres. The market value of production in 2002 was \$75,902,000. Crop sales accounted for \$18,481,000. Livestock sales accounted for \$57,420,000 of the total value for 2002. Average Market value per farm in 2002 was \$84,523. In 2002 there were \$2,293,000 in government payments to farms in Lyon County.

Business & Industry

Tyson Fresh Meats (formerly IBP) located in Emporia, is the largest employer with approximately 3,000 jobs. It serves a national and international market with beef and beef products. Most of Lyon County's citizens live and work in Emporia. Interstate Brands (formerly Dolly Madison) is another large employer that makes baked goods for nationwide distribution. Other large employers from Emporia's Industrial Parks include Detroit Diesel and Menu Foods.

Transportation

Lyon County's agriculture and business economy is served by an extensive transportation infrastructure. There are two railway lines and numerous highways. Figures provided by railroad official's state

that 90 to 110 trains come through Lyon County per day. County roads and highways are mapped in Figure 1.

Major Rivers and Watersheds:

The Cottonwood River flows from west to east and is located in the central section of the county.

The Neosho River flows in a southeasterly direction until it merges with the Cottonwood River east of Emporia.

Eagle Creek flows from west to east and is located in southern Lyon County near Olpe and then on to the east.

The Marias Des Cygnes River has its beginnings near Reading from the streams in northeastern Lyon County.

No major reservoirs are located in the county. Lyon County State Fishing Lake is located near Reading. Numerous watershed dams from 8 watershed districts exist in Lyon County.

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