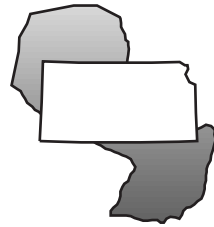


US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET



Comparison at same scale

Kansas
 Area: 82,277 sq. miles
 Population: 2.6 million

Paraguay
 Area: 157,048 sq. miles
 Population: 5.1 million

Paraguay



Largest metropolitan areas by population (1996):
 Counties in the Kansas City metro area (657,605), Wichita (512,965), Topeka (164,938)

Largest urban area by population (1995): Asunción (1,081,000)

Each landlocked in the heart of an American continent, both Kansas and Paraguay have significantly altered their landscapes for agriculture. Although Paraguay's population is growing four times faster than that of Kansas', both regions' populations have caused the loss of much of their natural flora and fauna. Both have greatly modified their natural water sources, creating significant future environmental challenges.

While Paraguay is located on the edge of the tropics and Kansas has a temperate climate, both areas are dominated by grasslands that are extensively used for raising livestock or that have been cultivated to grow grains and other crops. Both regions are more humid in the East, where most of the population lives, and arid in the West. Eastern Kansas has some woodland cover, while eastern Paraguay originally had extensive tropical forest

cover that is rapidly disappearing.

In the mid-1500s, when Spanish colonists were first settling Paraguay, Francisco Vásquez de ca Coronado explored parts of Kansas; but extensive European settlement of this territory would not occur for another three centuries. About 100 years ago, German-speaking Mennonites settled in both Kansas and Paraguay, bringing new agricultural practices to both regions. Today only about 20,000 Native Americans remain in Kansas. In Paraguay, native Guarani people make up about 5 percent of the population, and most Paraguayans speak native Guarani as well as Spanish.

Kansas' population growth is primarily driven by the excess of births over deaths and its growth rate is well below the U.S. average. On the other hand, Paraguay's fertility rate is the second highest in South America, helping to make its current population about

twice that of Kansas'. If Paraguay's fertility rate remains unchanged by the year 2025, it will combine with the large number of young Paraguayans today who will enter their childbearing years in 2025, making Paraguay's population triple that of Kansas'.

While its landscape may be dominated by agriculture, over two-thirds of Kansas' population lives in urban areas, and only 6 percent of the labor force is employed in agriculture. Rural areas are declining in population, while most cities continue to grow. By contrast, Paraguay's population is divided almost equally between urban and rural dwellers, making it one of the most rural countries in South America. The population is largely made up of poor peasant farmers, along with many under-employed city dwellers. In the absence of meaningful land reform, 85 percent of the land is owned by 2 per-

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Demographic and Health Trends

■ Kansas has grown less than 5 percent since the 1990 Census—about the rate of the Midwest as a whole. The “Sunflower State” has added 117,000 persons between 1990 and 1997.

■ Since 1990, there has been an excess of about 104,000 births over deaths. Combined with a slight gain through immigration, that has offset a net loss of about 24,000 people to other states.

■ Most of Kansas’ high-growth areas are in the eastern part of the state—

in the suburbs surrounding Wichita, Topeka, and Kansas City. Kansas City, however, has gone in the opposite direction, losing 6 percent of its population between 1990 and 1996.

■ Fifty-nine of Kansas’ 105 counties lost population between 1990 and 1997. Most of these were rural counties in the western two-thirds of the state. Geary, Comanche, Decatur, and Rush counties all lost at least 10 percent of their populations.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ The environmental group American Rivers recently included the Kansas River in its list of the nation’s 20 most endangered rivers. Agricultural runoff, municipal waste, and sand dredging have plagued the river, which supplies drinking water for Topeka, Lawrence, and Kansas City.

■ One environmental conflict involves the potential expansion of large-scale hog farming in Kansas.

Opponents complain that sewage from hog operations threatens groundwater supplies and the odor will add to the degradation of rural areas. Proponents see hog production as a supplier of jobs and economic growth, especially for rural areas.

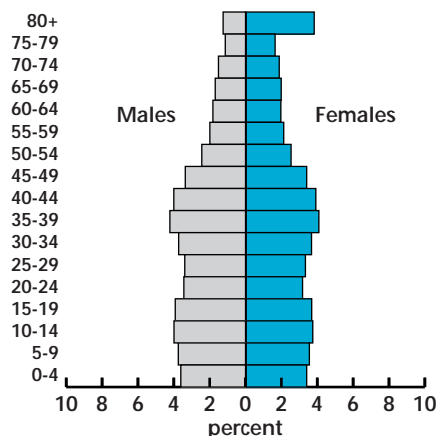
■ The whooping crane, the least tern, and the western prairie fringed orchid are among Kansas’ endangered and threatened species.

Socioeconomic Factors

■ Along with North Dakota, Kansas is a leading wheat producer. In 1997 it harvested 363.8 million bushels of wheat. Other major businesses include manufacturing, finance, and aviation. Wichita is a leading center for the aviation industry.

■ Since the late 1980s, the total value of goods sent from Kansas to other countries has more than doubled after adjusting for inflation. The state’s exports totaled \$5.1 billion in 1997.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

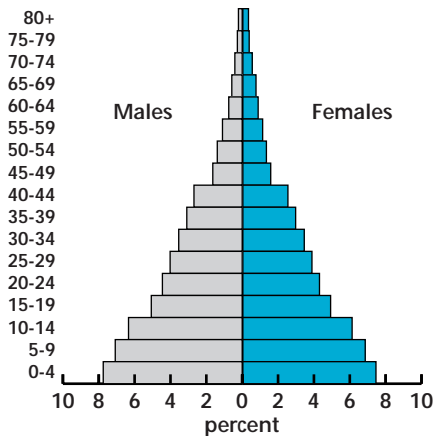


KANSAS FACTS

Population, 1997: 2.6 million
Projected population, 2025: 3.1 million
Annual growth rate: 0.6%
Doubling time (at current rate): 117 years
Average number of children per woman: 2.1
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 7.0
Life expectancy: 73 (male), 80 (female)
Persons per square mile: 32
Percent urban: 69
Endangered/threatened animals: 12 species
Endangered/threatened plants: 2 species
Percent of land protected: 0.2
Wetlands loss, 1780-1980: 48%
Daily water use per capita: 2,037 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 8%
Water use for agriculture: 67%
Water use for industry: 1%
Water use for energy production: 24%
Cropland per capita: 18.6 acres
Energy use per capita: 70.0 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 1.2
Adults who are high school graduates: 88%
Elected officials who are women: 29%
Labor force in agriculture: 6%
Labor force in industry: 19%
Labor force in services: 75%
Gross State Product, 1994: \$24,219 per capita

PARAGUAY

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



PARAGUAY FACTS

Population, 1997:	5.1 million
Projected population, 2025:	9.4 million
Annual growth rate:	2.6%
Doubling time (at current rate):	27 years
Average number of children per woman:	4.5
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births:	43
Life expectancy:	66 (male), 71 (female)
Persons per square mile:	33
Percent urban:	50
Threatened animals:	39 species
Threatened plants:	12 species
Percent of land protected:	3.7
Wetlands loss, through 1980s:	n.a.
Percent with access to safe water:	42
Percent with adequate sanitation:	41
Daily water use per capita:	79 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes:	15%
Water use for agriculture:	78%
Water use for industry:	7%
Cropland per capita:	1.3 acres
Energy use per capita:	1.8 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle:	43
Percent of girls in secondary school:	38
Percent of boys in secondary school:	36
Women as % of national legislature:	6
Labor force in agriculture:	2%
Labor force in industry:	26%
Labor force in services:	73%
GDP per capita, 1995:	US\$1,549

Demographic and Health Trends

- Paraguayan women have 4.5 children on average. In South America, this rate is second only to Bolivia and is 61 percent higher than the average rate.
- This high fertility results in a population with a large proportion of young people. Forty-two percent of Paraguayans are younger than age 15. This high proportion of youth means that Paraguay's population will continue to grow quickly in the future as these young people begin to have their own children.

- A child born in Paraguay could expect to live to 69 years—the same as the average for Latin America and the Caribbean. Yet for every 23 of these children, one will die before age 1.

- Paraguay is one of the most rural countries in South America. Today, 70 percent of Paraguay's population lives in urban areas, up by 45 percent since 1950.

- Only 42 percent of Paraguayans have access to safe water, compared to 75 percent of people in Latin America and the Caribbean overall.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- Deforestation is a concern in Paraguay. By 1995, tracts of forests were cleared primarily for agriculture, reducing forest cover by 32 percent in just 15 years.

- Large amounts of waste from food, alcohol, leather industries, and sewage drainage systems are dumped directly into waterways.

- From 1985 to 1995, the production of commercial forms of energy

increased by 925 percent in Paraguay, but local consumption of this energy increased by only 168 percent.

- Endangered species in Paraguay include the black-fronted piping-guan, bush dog, giant otter, giant armadillo, marsh deer, brazilian merganser, crowned eagle, and the Eskimo curlew.

Socioeconomic Factors

- Over 90 percent of Paraguayan adults are literate, while secondary school enrollment rates are 45 percent for males and 38 percent for females.

- By 1992, 13 percent of Paraguay's food came from abroad, down 6 percent from the 1970 level.

- Agriculture remains Paraguay's main industry and soybeans are its

principal crop. Cotton, wheat, corn, and tobacco are other important crops, and livestock is an important component of agricultural production.

- Official development assistance accounts for 1.3 percent of Paraguay's gross national product, amounting to \$103 million annually.

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cent of the landholders. Rapid population growth is producing an ever expanding number of landless peasant families, who survive as squatters and clears the forests through slash and burn agriculture. Some 10 percent of the remaining forest cover is cleared every year. In urban areas, the strain on public services results in large quantities of untreated waste being dumped into rivers and streams. The damage to the environment is exemplified by endangered species that dwell in Paraguay's forests and rivers, such as the giant otter, the marsh deer, and the crowned eagle.

Mechanization and prosperity, coupled with high consumption, have enabled a much smaller farming population to greatly alter Kansas' landscape as well. Much of the native prairie has been plowed under and more than one-half of the state's original wetlands have been lost. In the past 50 years the growth of the urban population has helped spur the construction of numerous large flood-control dams on Kansas waterways. Combined with the growth in irrigated agriculture, these demands on river flows have depleted many perennial streams, diminished water quality, and reduced groundwater supplies, further degrading wetlands and riparian areas. The loss of these

native habitats has contributed to the endangerment of some plant and animal species.

Responding to Challenges

In 1996, the Kansas Wetlands and Riparian Areas Alliance was formed to promote the protection, enhancement, and restoration of these important habitats. The alliance is made up of state and federal agencies, private conservation organizations, agricultural associations, universities, and individuals. Recognizing the huge challenge posed by the ongoing damage to critical wetland and riparian habitats, the alliance is focusing its efforts on educating the public, coordinating members' conservation activities, and sponsoring research to guide future conservation efforts.

U.S. institutions are making a major effort to help Paraguay stabilize its population and protect its environmental health. The U.S. Agency for International Development is cooper-

ating with other international donor agencies to help Paraguay achieve sustainability by assisting in the establishment of protected natural areas, expanding access to voluntary family planning, and reforming government institutions. These programs are

People in Kansas and Paraguay, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

implemented by U.S. organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Family Health International, and the State University of New York. They are further assisted by one of the largest U.S. Peace Corps programs in the world, with almost 200 volunteers. ■

DEFINITIONS: **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP.

SOURCES: Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

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