



ANDOVER, ARKANSAS CITY, AUGUSTA, BEL AIRE, BENTLEY, BENTON, BUTLER COUNTY, CHENEY, CLEARWATER, COLWICH, CONWAY SPRINGS, DERBY, EL DORADO, HALSTEAD, HARVEY COUNTY, HAYSVILLE, HESSTON, HUTCHINSON, KECHI, KINGMAN COUNTY, MAIZE, MCPHERSON COUNTY, MULVANE, NEWTON, PARK CITY, RENO COUNTY, ROSE HILL, SEDGWICK, SEDGWICK COUNTY, SUMNER COUNTY, VALLEY CENTER, WELLINGTON, WICHITA, WINFIELD

ABOUT THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP (REAP)

REAP'S MISSION

Guide state and national actions that affect economic development in the region and adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy.

OVERVIEW

From its inception in 1997, REAP has grown as a regional organization and is now an established voice on issues of common concern among local governments in South Central Kansas.

In 1997, 27 cities passed resolutions adopting an intergovernmental agreement creating the South Central Regional Council of Governments. In 1999 REAP extended membership to county governments. Currently REAP has representatives from 34 local governments, twenty-seven cities and seven counties.

Due to its role as a regional coordinator and leader REAP has been invited to serve on the following regional boards and commissions:

- Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition
- KansasBio
- Mid-Continent Airport Advisory Board
- Visioneering Wichita
- Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas

REAP has also been invited to serve on the following committees:

- Jabara Campus Project Steering Committee
- KDOT Special Committee for 2009 Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Wichita International Trade Processing Center Feasibility Committee

Since 2006 REAP, as directed by the State of Kansas, has administered the five-year, \$25 million, Kansas Affordable Airfares Program, to provide more air flight options, more competition for air travel, and affordable air fares for Kansas.

REAP also tries to act proactively in activities to bring regional actors to speak about common issues. In 2006 and 2007 REAP partnered with Visioneering Wichita to conduct an annual leadership summit that attracted approximately 150 business and governmental leaders from throughout South Central Kansas each year to discuss "Our Economic Future."

The REAP Economic Development Committee serves as the Chief Elected Officials Board over seeing more than \$5 million in federal funds for Local Service Delivery Area IV under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Local Area IV Consists of Butler, Cowley, Harper, Kingman, Sedgwick, and Sumner Counties.

Each year REAP adopts a legislative platform, and cultivates relationships with area legislatures to gain favorable outcomes for the region and State of Kansas.

REAP recently formed the Water Resources Committee to serve as a regional conduit of information and education regarding water quality and supply issues in South Central Kansas.

Strengthening the economy of South Central Kansas through joint action of cities and counties.

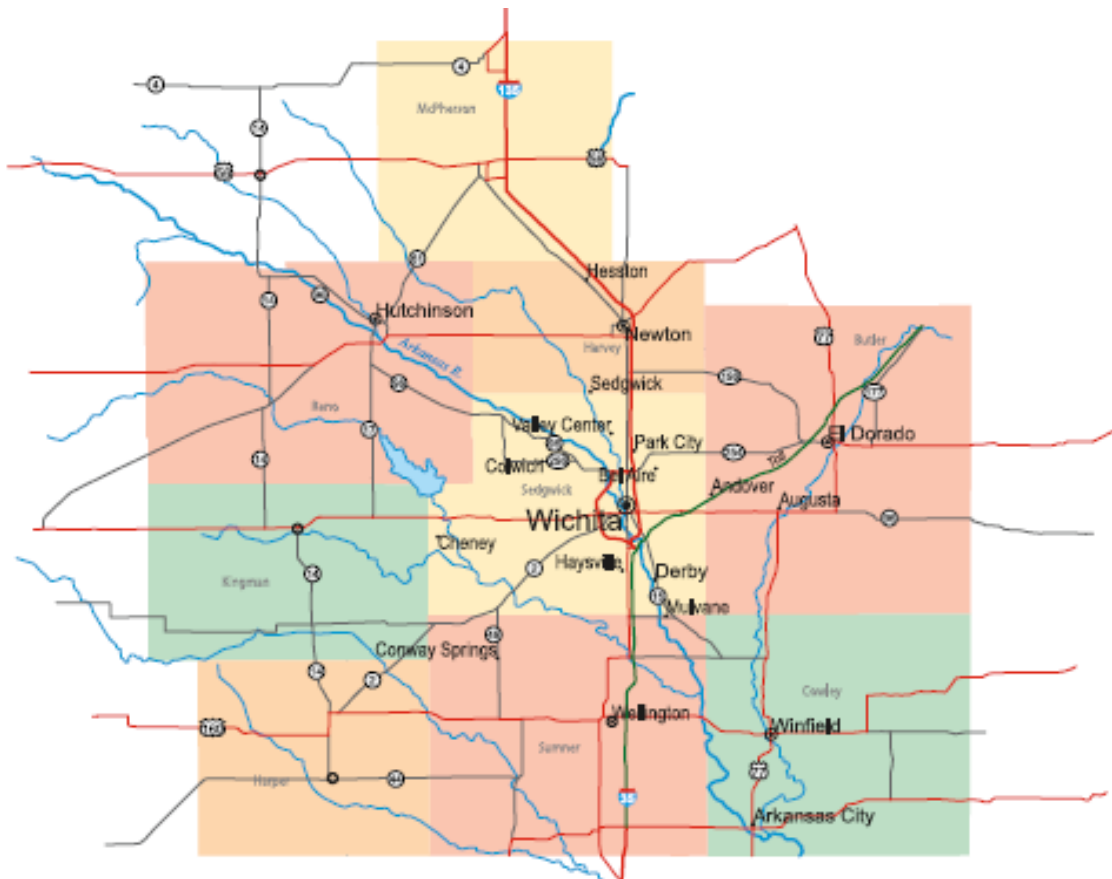


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QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REAP REGION*

THE REAP AREA CONSISTS OF:

- Home to more than 730,000 people, representing one-quarter of Kansas' population.
- 9,094 sq. miles, or 11% of the total land in Kansas.
- 393,000 civilian workers representing one-fourth of total employment in Kansas.
- Two-fifths of all manufacturing employment in Kansas.
- Annual personal income in excess of \$18 billion.
- Retail sales for the region are in excess of \$7.6 billion, accounting for one-quarter of total sales in Kansas.
- The REAP area has approximately 350,000 registered voters.
- Eight of the major (non-retail) employers in the REAP area are featured on the Forbes 500 List.



* The data compiled refers to the REAP region as of December 31, 2007.