

CITY OVERVIEW

Size and Location

The City of Newton is the county seat of Harvey County, Kansas, and is located approximately 25 miles north of Wichita, the largest city in Kansas. The City encompasses approximately 11.38 square miles and is the largest city in Harvey County with a 2015 census estimated population of 19,216 persons.

The city was incorporated in 1872 at the western terminal of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway and the railhead of the Chisholm Trail, a cattle trail that ended in Abilene (current Highway K-15 follows the Chisholm Trail's route). Thus, the history of Newton has always been tied to the railroad.

Newton offers an ideal family environment with affordable, quiet neighborhoods and an assortment of youth recreational activities. A drive through the heart of the community reveals a city with pride and vision. Historical buildings that have been adapted for modern commercial enterprises are sprinkled throughout the community. Visible signs of steady new growth are evidenced by the successful commerce taking hold in the community. Newton residents benefit from a lifestyle that values sound education, progressive health care and safe neighborhoods.

Newton area residents have access to full medical, dental and rehabilitative services close to home. Harvey County enjoys the third highest physician to resident ratio in the state. Newton Medical Center, a private, not-for-profit hospital, serves the community. With about 60 physicians and 500 employees, the medical center is a major employer in Harvey County.

The Newton school district, USD 373, serves nearly 3,700 students in the Newton area. Annually, Newton High School graduates classes averaging approximately 400. The recent passage of a school bond issue supported renovating and building additions to five schools in the district.

Economic Conditions and Outlook

Newton is located in the Wichita, Kansas, Metropolitan Area, approximately 20 miles north of Wichita itself. In 2015 building permits were issued for \$30.9 million compared to \$34.2 million in 2014, a 9.5% decrease.

The City of Newton is actively involved in economic development through its partnership with Harvey County and six other local cities. These entities fund the Harvey County Economic Development Council, Inc. to provide economic development services for the area. The mission of the organization is:

To promote the social welfare and economic development of Harvey County; recruit industrial prospects for relocation and expansion in Harvey County; and engage in other programs and projects for promotion of local economic development.

Working as partners has allowed economies of scale in business development and recruitment, as well as the ability to acquire technical expertise and resources

Government and Organization

The City, incorporated in 1872 became a city of the first class in 1969.

The City operates under a Commission - Manager form of government. Five commissioners are elected in a non-partisan election every odd numbered year. Three seats are always up for election. The top two vote getters in the election will serve a four-year term and third top vote getter will serve a two-year term.

The City Manager is appointed by the Commission and is charged with the efficient and effective administration of the City.

Municipal Services and Utilities

The City owns and operates its own water and sewer utility systems. Westar Energy supplies electricity and Kansas Gas Service supplies natural gas to the area. Telephone service is provided by SBC. Cox Communication operates a cable television system in the area.

The City has 38 sworn police officers serving the City. In addition to this, NPD provides and receives support from the Harvey Co. Sheriff's Office, North Newton Police Dept., and the Kansas Highway Patrol for incidents in or near the City of Newton. In addition to this, the City has 50 certified firefighters/emergency medical technicians and paramedics, which provide continuous full-time protection to the City. The City also provides fire and EMS services to North Newton, surround townships, as well as emergency ambulance service for the eastern half of Harvey Co. and neighboring counties.

Utility Operations

Ownership and operation of the Water, Wastewater, and Sanitation divisions continue to comprise three essential elements of the City's service complement. Newton has been blessed with high quality supplies of groundwater from the Equus Beds aquifer, and the water requires very little treatment. Newton is the sole supplier of potable water to city residents and businesses. In addition to this, Newton is a partner in Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 17 along with three other municipalities. The City is also the sole provider of residential refuse and recycling collection services.

Newton owns and operates a regional wastewater treatment plant licensed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. A major renovation of over \$5 million was completed in 1994. A new disinfection process was completed in 1998, funded by cash reserves. Rates for wastewater service were increased in 2003 to cover inflation of costs, and incremental increases were enacted for 2004, 2005 and 2006. In 2014, the City Commission adopted a new fee to pay the principal and interest payments for the wastewater plant upgrade. The fee is 38% of customers sewer bill.

The Newton solid waste division collects refuse and recyclable materials from residential customers in the City. Commercial service was abandoned as a separate operation, although commercial customers who can be serviced in the normal residential refuse and recycling collection process can opt for City service. Refuse is delivered to the Harvey County transfer station, where it is delivered to a landfill out of the county. Recyclables are delivered to the Harvey County Recycling Center for processing.

Airport

The Newton City-County Airport is a vital asset to the community. Jointly owned by the City of Newton and Harvey County, the Airport is operated by the City. The facility is a reliever airport for Wichita Mid-Continent, thus allowing for infusion of federal funds over the years for a 7,000 foot lighted runway, crosswind runway, and various automated services for handling flights. Industrial rental buildings, fuel sales, and tax revenues form the basis of financial support for the facility. Approximately \$160,000 in combined City and County taxes goes toward the Airport operation annually.

Transportation and Communication Facilities

The Newton area is served by the Burlington Northern/ Santa Fe Railroad which also serves a portion of Harvey County. The City is located at the junction of the four-lane, divided, north-south Interstate 135 and the two-lane, east-west U.S. Highway 50. Interstate 70, an east-west divided four-lane highway, runs 60 miles north of the City. The City/County airport is located within three miles of the intersection of U.S. highway 50 and I-135 in Newton. The airport, managed by the City, has a 7,000 foot runway that will accommodate commercial jets and a 3,500 crosswind runway that is capable of handling private and corporate aircraft. Regularly scheduled air service is available at Mid-Continent Airport, located in Wichita.

Educational Institutions and Facilities

USD 373 is the largest employer in Newton and the second largest employer in Harvey County with a work force of over 850 employees. More than half of USD 373 teachers have a Masters degree or above.

In the past few years, the district has produced 5 Kansas Horizon Award winners, two Kansas Ag Teachers of the Year, National Gymnastics Coach of the Year, Kansas Foreign Language Teacher of the Year, Kansas CTE Director of the Year, Kansas Business Office Administrator of the Year, and several state coaches of the year, including Volleyball, Tennis, Track, Cross Country and Debate/Forensics. In addition, there are two parochial schools located in the City and Bethel College, a private four-year college, is located just north of the City.

Medical and Health Facilities

Newton Medical Center, with more than 103 beds and over 550 employees is located in the City. Of the 105 Kansas counties, only one has more doctors per capita than Harvey County. Most recently, Newton Medical Center opened an urgent care facility on the north-end of the City to help better coordinate care for those who do not necessarily need to go to the hospital. Prairie View, Inc., an in-patient/out-patient mental health hospital, serves the City and a wide area of the state with mental health services. Health Ministries, a non-profit organization also calls Newton home. They focus on providing integrated medical, dental, and behavioral health care to everyone in need of service. Together, the medical community works together to ensure the best quality of care is provided to Newton residents and beyond.

City of Newton

Community Profile

Recreational, Cultural and Religious facilities

There is a wide variety of recreation available in the City including sporting events, movie theaters, parks, swimming pools, golf courses and tennis courts. Cultural opportunities such as a community theater, a symphony and museums are also located in or near the City. Approximately 46 churches serve the community. Annual community activities include, the Bethel Fall Fest, the Harvey County Fair and the Sand Creek Folk Art Festival.

ECONOMIC INFORMATION

The area's economy includes a very diverse industrial base including railroads, agricultural, business and manufacturing industries. Additionally, the area is a trading center for agricultural products including grain and livestock.

Major Employers

The City of Newton has a diverse employment base. Due to its proximity to Wichita, residents of Newton travel to Wichita for work and likewise a number of Wichita residents work in Newton. Below is a listing of some of the largest employers located in the City of Newton.

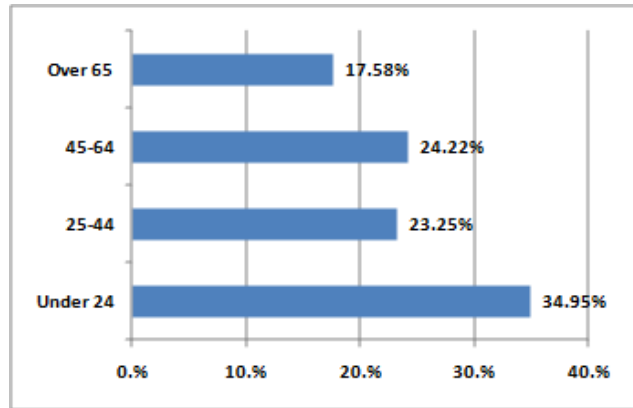
2016-2017 Newton's Largest Employers		
Major Employers	Product/Service	Employees
Newton Schools USD 373	Education	852
Newton Medical Center	Health Care	794
Norcraft Companies	Manufacturing	589
BNSF Railway	Transportation	380
Walmart	Retail	271
Prairie View Hospital	Mental Health	252
Dillons Stores	Grocery	243
ResCare Kansas	Development	209
City of Newton	Government	206
Asbury Park	Retirement Home	205
Harvey County	Government	175

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Population Trends

The 2010 census population for Newton was 19,132. The 2015 estimate is 19,216. The population of Newton has increased each decade since 1950. The population of the

City of Newton increased 7,542 persons between 1950 and 2008. The increase represented a growth rate of 65%. As the chart on the next page reveals, the majority of the City population is aged between 25-44, this is typical for most US cities. The age distribution of the population is directly related to the type of services the City is required to provide for its residents.



Racial/Ethnic Composition

According to the US Census Bureau, 83.5% of the Newton residents are white/Caucasian. The largest minority group is Hispanic who comprise 11.7% of the City population.

Education

Educational attainment in Newton varied moderately in relation to Harvey County and the State of Kansas. The variations can be seen in three significant demographic groups: high school graduates, persons with some college but no degree, and those with a Bachelors degree. In Newton, the highest portion of the population have a high school diploma (30.31% of persons age 25 and over), which is slightly lower than Harvey County (33.9 percent) and the State average (32.8 percent). The next largest portion of the population is slightly more educated; approximately 24.6% of the population in Newton has some college background but no degree. This is slightly higher than the State norm of 21.9 %.

Income

The median household income in the City of Newton is \$44,996, compared to the State median of \$50,177. The estimated per capita income is \$22,913.