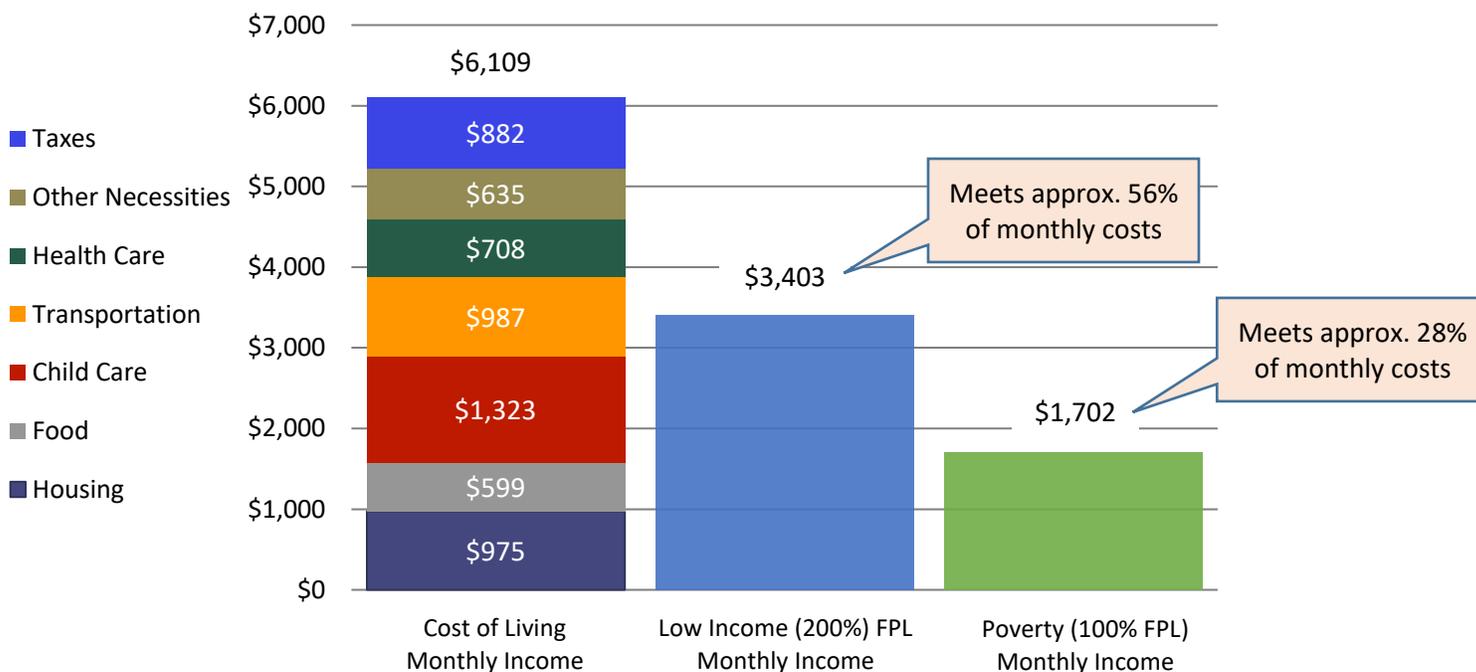




The Cost of Living in Johnson County (2017)

Johnson County families are faced every day with choices about how to spend their household income. These choices are influenced by the cost of basic needs, such as housing, child care, food, and health care. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) recently released an update to the Family Budget Calculator, which measures the income a family needs to attain a modest yet adequate standard of living. Families with limited income must figure out how to meet these essential needs with inadequate resources. For example, a low-income single parent with two children earns less than 56% of what it costs to live in Johnson County; if that family is in poverty, they earn less than 28% of what it takes to meet the cost of living.

Monthly Cost of Living for a Single Parent with Two Children
in Johnson County



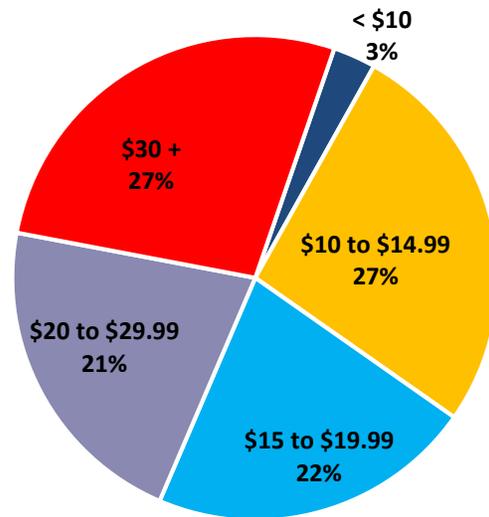
Regardless of household size, household income must be at least \$16.00 per hour (full-time, year-round) to regularly sustain a household in Johnson County. Households with children need to earn the equivalent of at least \$28.00 per hour to afford necessities. Employment is a key pathway to economic opportunity, but those jobs must pay adequate wages to meet the cost of living.

	Single Adult	One Parent One Child	One Parent Two Children	Two Parents One Child	Two Parents Two Children
Monthly Budget	\$2,902	\$4,887	\$6,109	\$5,848	\$6,963
Annual Budget	\$34,824	\$58,644	\$73,308	\$70,176	\$83,556
Full-time wage required (per hour)	\$16.74	\$28.19	\$35.24	\$33.74	\$40.17



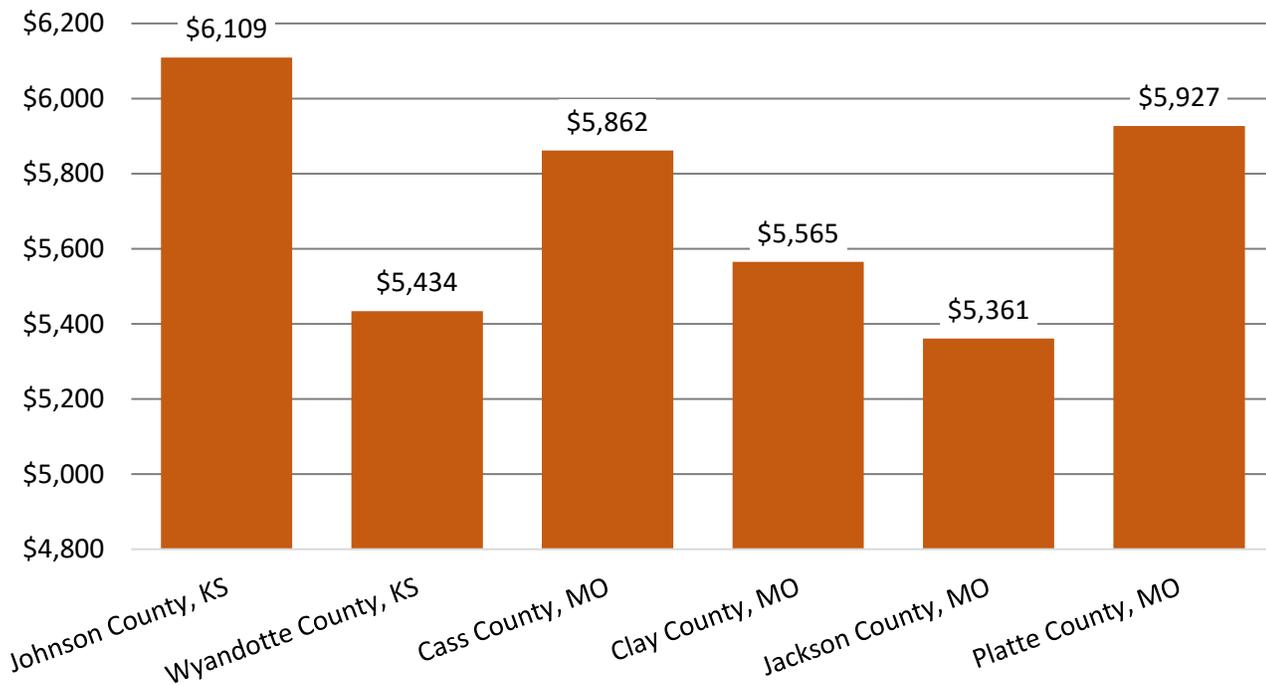
In Johnson County, 30% of jobs pay less than \$15 an hour, which is equivalent to \$31,200 for full-time year-round work and does not cover the cost of living even for a single adult. Employment projections for the area suggest that the largest employment growth through 2022 will be predominantly low-wage occupations, such as sales clerk, restaurant worker, cashier, and personal care aide. Supporting a family and getting a secure foothold in life can be challenging when job opportunities are concentrated in low wage jobs.

Johnson County Average Hourly Wages



Johnson County has a higher cost of living than other communities in the Kansas City metro area. Since 2014 (the last year for which EPI released cost of living estimates) the cost of living in the greater Kansas City metro area has increased by 15% for a single parent with two children and by 19% for a two-parent household with two children.

Monthly Cost of Living for a Single Parent with Two Children in the Kansas City Region



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates 2016; Economic Policy Institute, 2017; Mid-America Regional Council, Jobs EQ Q3 2017; U.S. Dept. of HHS, 2017