



Wages and the Cost of Living

United Community Services is committed to advocating for public policies that promote economic stability. This includes policies that advance wage, housing, employment, taxation, health, and business retention and growth policies that support citizens’ ability to improve economic stability and move toward self-sufficiency.

The median household income in Johnson County is \$91,117, well above the median income in neighboring Wyandotte County (\$46,964) and Jackson County (\$57,936). According to the 2019 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau in 2019 than 474,800 Johnson County residents were in the labor force, approximately 78% of the population, and the unemployment rate was less than 3%. The impact of COVID-19 has destabilized the unemployment rate over the past year as unemployment claims rise.

Despite the 2019 data trends, there are many in the Johnson County community who earn less than what it costs to live in the county. According to the Economic Policy Institute *Family Budget Calculator*, a single adult would need to earn more than \$17.00 per hour (or \$34,800 for full-time year-round work) to cover the cost of living in Johnson County, which includes costs of housing, transportation, food, healthcare, taxes, and childcare. For one adult with two children, the living wage is more than \$35.00/hour, or \$73,300 annually. In Johnson County, nearly 119,000 jobs have a median salary below the living wage of \$17.00/hour. That includes more than 59,000 jobs paying median wages below \$15.00 per hour.

MEDIAN WAGE IN JOHNSON COUNTY OCCUPATIONS

