

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

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Information you can use: It matters where you work and live

Based on a new C.D. Study Report # 224, the wages in the metropolitan counties are higher in both public and private sectors as compared to non-metropolitan counties. Wages vary dramatically across Rural-Urban continuum Codes. Rural-Urban continuum Codes distinguish metropolitan counties by size, and non-metropolitan counties by degree of urbanization and proximity to metro areas.

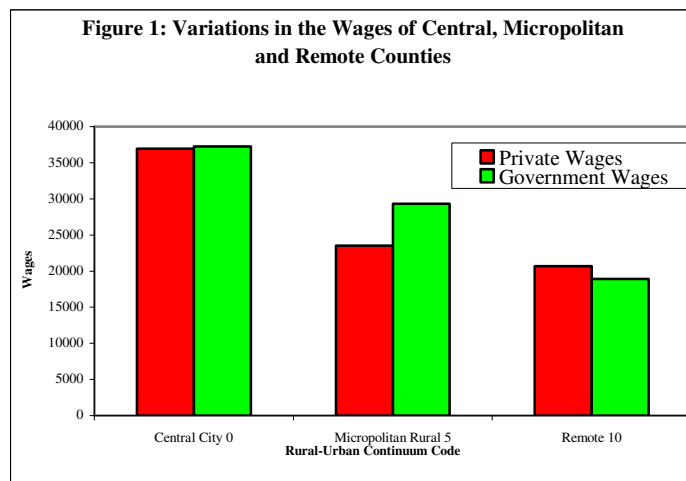
The patterns revealed by these Codes give the reader a way to cluster similar counties. This allows the reader to analyze counties in similar versus dissimilar settings. Map 1 shows an updated set of Rural-Urban Continuum Codes based on 1993 USDA publication. In this publication, Margaret Butler and Calvin Beale published their 1993 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes for all U.S. counties. Butler and Beale in this publication stated that,

....“this scheme allows researchers to break county data into finer residential groups, beyond metro and non-metro, particularly for the analysis of trends in non-metro areas that are related to population density and metro influence. Non-metropolitan counties are classified according to aggregate size of their urban (city) populations. Within the three urban size categories, counties adjacent to a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) are identified. Adjacent counties: 1) are physically, adjacent to one or more MSAs and 2) have at least two percent of the employed labor in the non-metro county

commuting to central metro counties. Non-metro counties that do not meet the above criteria fall into the ‘non-adjacent’ categories.”

Table 1 and Map 1, both provide the reader information that identifies similar and dissimilar counties in the State. For example, Finney County compares to Ford, Lyon and Riley counties with Code 5. And Barber County compares to Comanche, Decatur and Woodson counties with Code 10. K-State Research and Extension annually revises county Codes based on new U.S. Census Bureau information.

A new coding system has been recently developed by the Economic Research Service (ERS). It is named as the ERS Urban Influence Codes (Parker and Ghelfi, www.ers.usda.gov/data/).



Butler, Douglas, Johnson, Harvey, Leavenworth, Miami, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Wyandotte are the nine metropolitan counties in the state of Kansas.

Rural Urban Continuum Codes: Average Wages in Private and Government Sector

Based on the Rural Urban Continuum Code analysis, the 2002 wages in the private sector ranges from \$20,700 (R-U Code 10) to \$36,932 (R-U Code 0) whereas 2002 wages in the public sector range from \$18,912(R-U Code 10) to \$37,245 (R-U Code 0). The overall state private wage is \$31,060 and the overall state government wage is \$29,772 (See Figure 1). The wages in the urban areas are the highest in both the public and the private sectors when compared to all the areas. In general, the wages in the private sectors are higher than the public sectors but it varies by Code to Code. There are six areas where the wages in private sector is higher than the government wages with R-U continuum Codes of 2,6,7,8,9 and 10. The government sector pays higher wages in the other five areas with R-U continuum Codes of 0, 1, 3, 4 and 5. The highest public sector wages are paid in Riley County and the highest private sector wages are paid in Johnson County. In Riley County the public sector pays higher (\$41,137) than private (\$21,032) sector whereas in Johnson County the private sector pays higher (\$38,608) than public sector (\$33,856). This is based on 2002 wage data.

There are nine Metropolitan counties in this analysis. These are Coded 0,1,2 and 3. Table 1 presents the number of counties in each

Rural-Urban Continuum Code. The largest metro in Kansas is part of the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Private and public sector wages are highest here. Based on the analysis done in the C.D. Study Report # 224, three out of four Kansas City metro counties offer higher paid jobs in the public sector compared to the private sector with the exception of Johnson County.

Wages in the private sector and the public sector are about the same in Sedgwick and Butler County. Wages in the private sector are higher than the public sector in Harvey County. These three counties make up the Wichita MSA.

There are 96 Non-metropolitan counties in this 2002 analysis. The Non-metropolitan county Codes are 4,5,6,7,8,9, and 10. Among Non-metropolitan counties, the counties with R-U Code 4 pay almost similar wages in both the sectors. While, the counties with R-U Code 5 pay higher wages on average in the public sector over the private sector.

Table 2 presents the difference in private and government wages across Rural-Urban Continuum Codes. The Metropolitan and Non-metropolitan counties are distinguished according to their urban population and their proximity to MSAs. Map 1 shows the Rural-Urban Continuum Code for each county.

<i>Metro Code</i>	<i>Number of Counties</i>	<i>Non-metro Code</i>	<i>Number of Counties</i>
0	2	4	3
1	2	5	8
2	3	6	11
3	2	7	28
		8	6
		9	19
		10	21

Table 1: Number of counties in the Rural-Urban Continuum Code

Darling's R-U Continuum Codes	CY 2002 Average Private Wages	CY 2002 Average Government Wages
Central city 0	\$36,932	\$37,245
Big metro fringe 1	\$24,910	\$31,710
Wichita metro 2	\$28,522	\$27,628
Lawrence & Topeka 3	\$27,411	\$34,944
Micropolitan fringe 4	\$25,209	\$25,343
Micropolitan rural 5	\$23,532	\$29,323
Small cities fringe 6	\$22,941	\$22,251
Small cities rural 7	\$22,886	\$21,879
Open country fringe 8	\$22,350	\$20,032
Open country rural 9	\$21,178	\$19,472
Remote 10	\$20,700	\$18,912
State values	\$31,060	\$29,772

Sources: K-State Research and Extension, C.D. Study Report (May 2004); Wage data from the Labor Market Information Services, KDHR (2002)

Table 2: Wage variations in the private and public sectors across Kansas

Pearl Collection: *Self-knowledge is the beginning of self-improvement.*

Source: The book of positive quotation by John Cook

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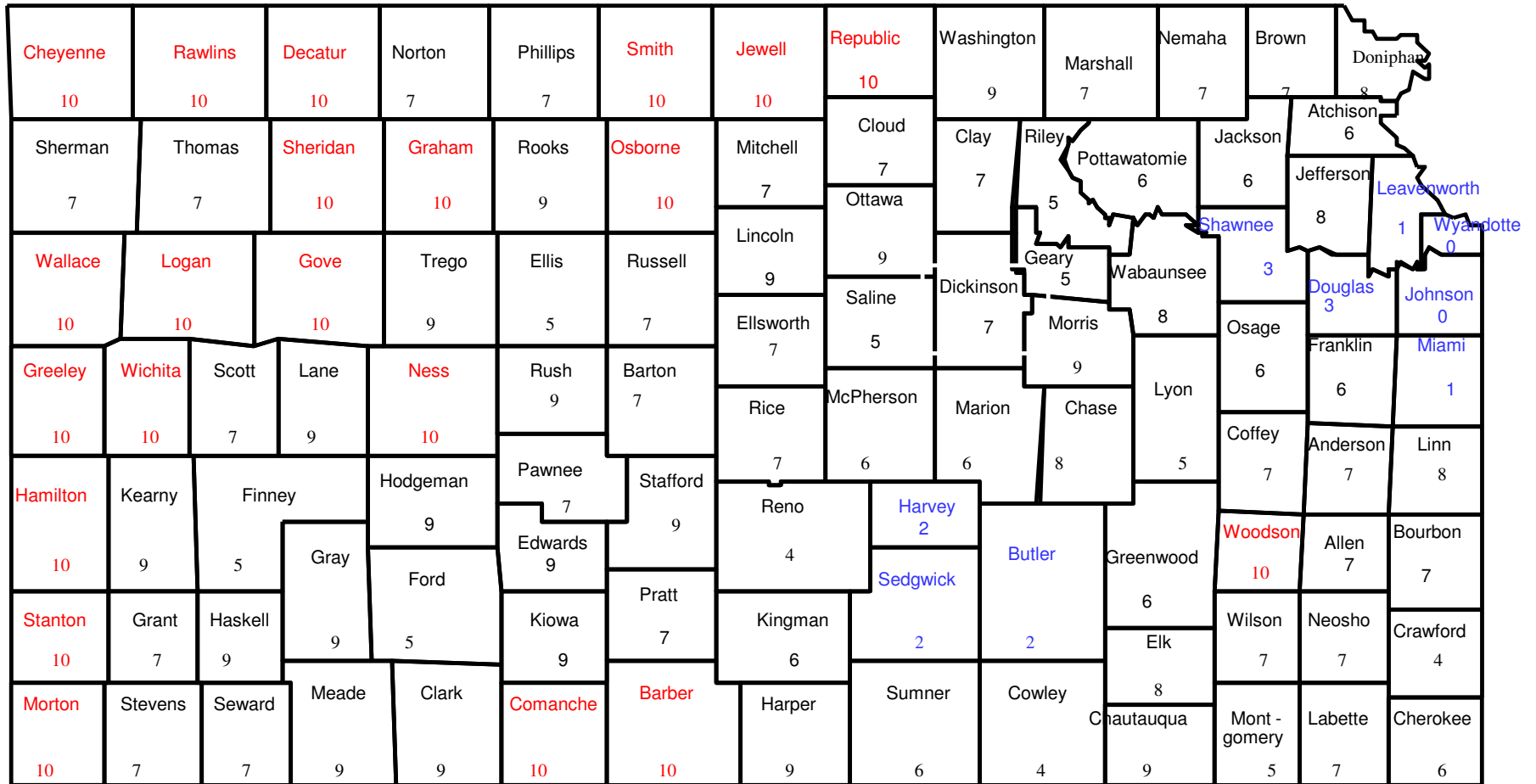
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MAP-1

Rural – Urban Continuum Codes – FY 2002

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Maps Produced by : K – State Research and Extension, Department of Agriculture Economics

Counties in red are non-metro counties with an RUCC 10
Counties in white are non-metro counties
Counties in Blue are metro counties

