

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

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Information you can use:

Commuters and commuting patterns are interesting to study from an economic perspective. Some places provide jobs for people from a wide area. Other places are small settlements with houses, minimal services, and few businesses.

The 2000 Census provides journey to work data and these numbers show commuting patterns from the home county to other places as well as in-commuting from other places. The authors have analyzed the data and produced a statistical report for Kansas. *Journey to Work Patterns in Kansas* is done in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Transportation.

One use of the data is to define labor sheds. These are sub-state areas that make up a labor market. Those living in a labor shed have easy access to employers located in as many as eleven counties. The Wichita labor shed includes Sedgwick County as well as the following: Butler, Chase, Cowley, Elk, Greenwood, Kingman, Harper, Harvey, Marion, and Reno counties. Sedgwick County, in 2000, had 218,599 residents that were employed and most, 210,859, worked in their home county. Only 7,740 commuted out of Sedgwick County and many more, 29,474, commuted in. Thus, 3.54 percent commuted out. The work force in Sedgwick County was made up of 12.26 percent in-commuters. Wichita in Sedgwick County is a job center, based on these statistics.

Over 28 counties acted as job centers in 2000. The most notable were the following: Seward, Shawnee, Stanton, Saline, Morton, Montgomery, Mitchell, Riley, Wyandotte, Johnson, Norton, Greeley, Neosho, Finney, Gove, Ford, Thomas, and Coffey. A job center county, in this report, is defined as a county with more in-commuters than out-commuters.

Besides job centers, some counties can easily be classified as bedroom counties. Jefferson County is a bedroom county. Residents live in this county and commute to jobs in counties in every direction. No other county is more strategically located for this purpose. About 67 percent of all those residents who were employed in 2000 commuted out-of-county to work. A lot few outsiders commuted into Jefferson County. The numbers are 5,982 out-commuters and 982 in-commuters. Besides Jefferson County, some other bedroom counties were Osage, Wabaunsee, Chase, Ottawa, Miami, Butler, Linn, Sumner, and Anderson.

The accompanying map presents the commuting patters for all 105 counties. Net commuting patters are calculated by subtracting the percent of non-resident workers in a county workforce from the percent of workers leaving the county. These are rank ordered from high to low based on net commuting patterns in percentage terms. The counties colored in red are designated job center ones. The ones in blue are designated bedroom counties. Some counties that have a high percentage of out-commuters are not colored in blue. And this is a limitation of the methodology in this study. Several notable counties not colored in blue are Doniphan, Douglas, Gray, Harper, Kearny, and Pottawatomie counties.

To read the full report, go to the following web site and enter the CD Study Reports portion:
www.agecon.ksu.edu/ddarling

See Map on page 3.

DATE BOOK: The next KCCED conference on community economic development in Kansas – *Think Strategically, Act Locally*. When: April 13 and 14. Where: Junction City Courtyard by Marriott. For more information go to – www.ksu.edu/kcri/kcced
Watch for more information to follow.

A Pearl Collection: *If there is hope in the future there is power in the present.*
John Maxwell



Come choose our great life style; choose Kansas. Opportunities abound.

Produced by David L. Darling, Community Development Economist on the web at www.agecon.ksu.edu/ddarling

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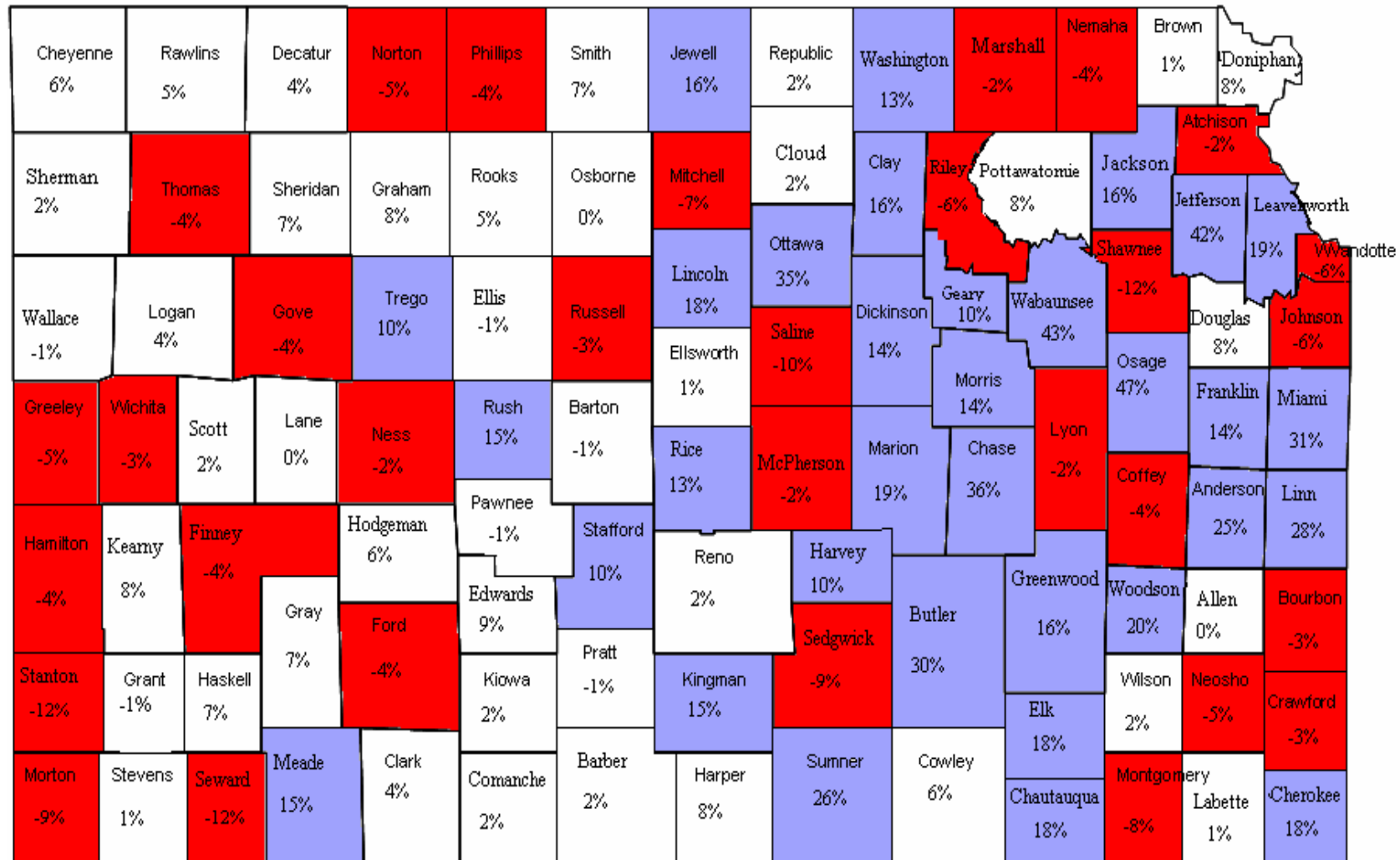
Journey to Work Patterns in Kansas

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Source: Journey to work data, Kansas Department of Transportation



Counties in Red are Job Center Counties
Counties in Blue are Bedroom Counties