

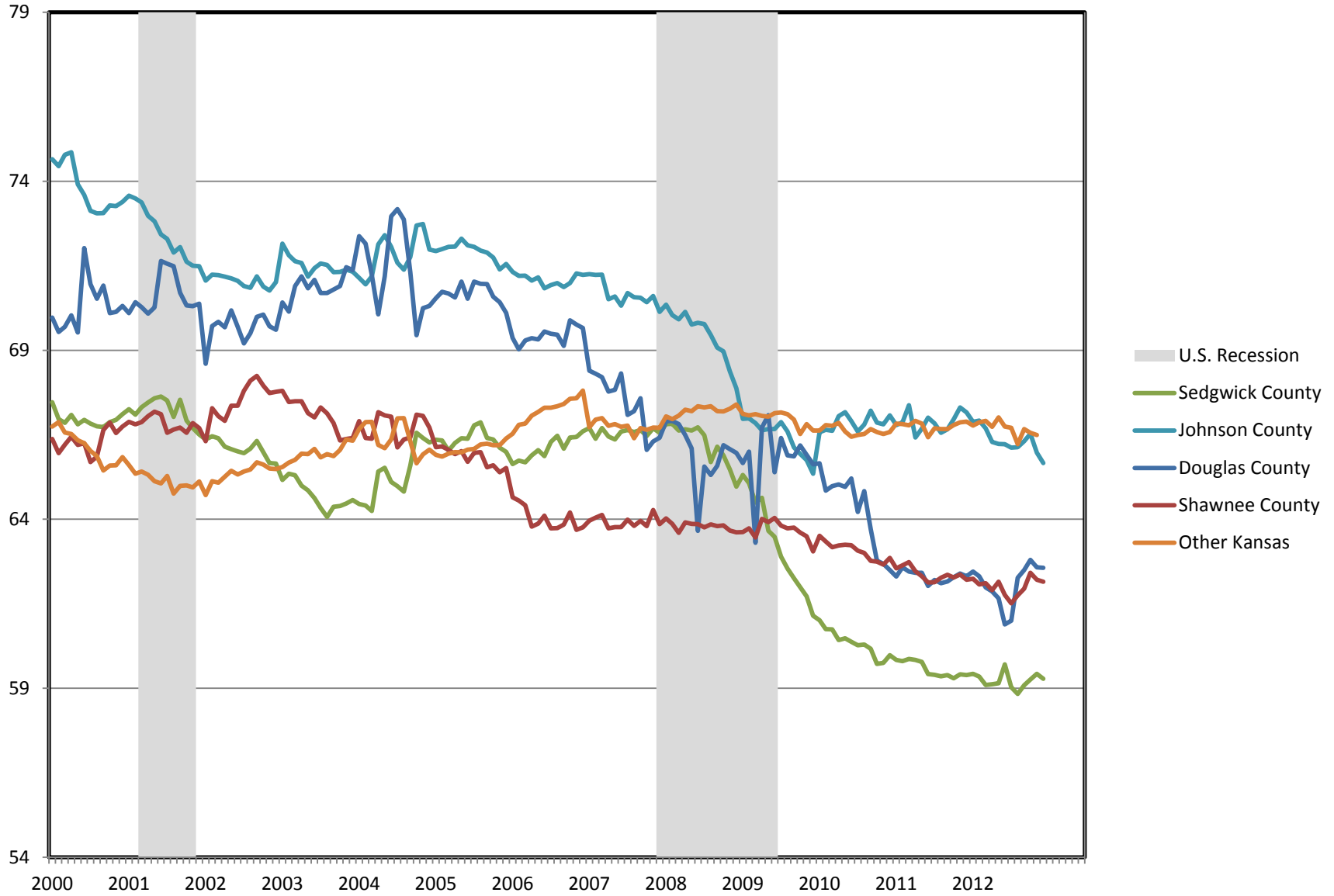
Employment-Population Ratio across Kansas

The employment-population ratio has varied significantly across different areas in Kansas over the last decade. Some counties have seen sharp declines, while others have been slowly growing. The employment-population ratio is a measure of labor market strength; it is calculated by dividing the number of employed workers in an area by the total civilian non-institutionalized population aged 16 and over in that region. Typically, the employment-population ratio will decline in recessionary periods and increase during expansionary periods.

Figure 1, below, presents the employment-population ratio for Sedgwick County, Johnson County, Douglas County, Shawnee County, and an aggregated line for all other Kansas counties. United States recessionary periods are highlighted in grey.

- Sedgwick County had the largest drop in the employment-population ratio of any of the major population centers in Kansas during the 2008 recession, dropping more than seven percentage points.
- Johnson County and Douglas County have experienced long-run declines in the employment-population ratio, dropping more than nine percentage points and 10 percentage points, respectively, since their peaks in the early 2000s.
- Shawnee County fared relatively well during the 2008 recession with a constant employment-population ratio, but during the recovery has seen a drop of two percentage points in the employment-population ratio.
- None of the major population centers in Kansas have significantly increased their employment-population ratio since the end of the 2008 recession.
- The rest of Kansas has outperformed the population centers during and following the 2008 recession with a relatively constant employment-population ratio, while population centers saw declines during the recession.

Figure 1: Employment-Population Ratio for Select Kansas Counties



Methodology

The employment-population ratio is calculated by dividing the number of civilian employed workers by the civilian non-institutionalized population, ages 16 and over, in a region. For this study, the source for the number of civilian employed workers is the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). The source for the civilian non-institutionalized population data is the U.S. Census Bureau's annual population estimates.